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BRITISH and IRISH

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CHARACTERS

OF

1798.

MEMOIRS of the following Perſonages, are given in this Volume:

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Lord Rokeby,
Lord Nelſon.

" ——————I wiſh no other herald,
" No other ſpeaker of my *living actions*,
" To keep mine honour from corruption,
" But ſuch an honeſt chronicler——."

HEN. 8. Act 4. Sc. 2.

DUBLIN:

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1799.

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TO THE KING.

SIRE,

AS the accuſtomed forms of ſociety do not permit YOUR MAJESTY to mix with your ſubjects at large, and to acquire, in perſon, a diſtinct and particular knowledge of their reſpective merits, actions, and characters, theſe Biographical Sketches are ſubmitted and addreſſed to YOU, with peculiar propriety, and with profound reſpect.

That YOUR MAJESTY may thus, in ſome meaſure, be ena-

bled to appreciate their diſtinguiſhed talents, to reſpect their illuſtrious virtues, and to reward their uſeful and meritorious actions, during the continuance of a lengthened, happy, and proſperous reign, is the fervent wiſh, and devout prayer, of

Your Majeſty's
moſt humble and
moſt obedient
Subjects and Servants,

London, Nov. 1798.

THE EDITORS.

PREFACE.

THE object of the Work which is now ſubmitted to the Public, is to exhibit, in the memoirs of the illuſtrious actors, the public and ſecret hiſtory of the preſent times. Reſpectable works of aſimilar deſcription, have been publiſhed in various countries on the continent; none, however, have hitherto been attempted, upon the ſame plan, in this country.

BIOGRAPHY, in all its forms, is allowed to be the moſt faſcinating and inſtructive ſpecies of literary compoſition. It not only poſſeſſes all the advantages of general hiſtory, the various excellencies of which may be judiciouſly interwoven with the lives of eminent perſonages, but it frequently diſcovers the minute and latent ſprings of great events, which, in the comprehenſive range of Hiſtory, would have eſcaped attention.

Many

Many of the attractions of Biography in general, and ſome additional advantages, are poſſeſſed by *contemporary Biography*. The memoirs of men, who are the preſent actors on the great theatre of life, who acquire and demand public confidence, and from whom further reſults of action or meditation are to be expected, neceſſarily excite a higher degree of curioſity, than the lives of thoſe who have made their exit from the ſtage, by whom no future good or evil can be performed or perpetrated, and who, "dead, gone, and forgotten," are generally carried down the ſtream of oblivion, and ſwallowed up in the gulph of unregiſtered mortality.

It muſt be admitted, that the biographer of deceaſed perſons is better enabled, by the independence of his ſituation, and a more extenſive retroſpect, to eſtimate the degree of virtue and vice, and to appreciate the ſum total of merit and demerit with greater preciſion, than the contemporary biographer, who is reſtrained, by the extreme delicacy of his undertaking, from giving the finiſhing ſtroke to his delineations of character, whoſe incomplete materials prevent him from deducing general and important

portant concluſions in their proper latitude, and, in many caſes, from diſcriminating between hypocriſy and ſincerity. Still, however, a writer of this deſcription is better able to collect facts, and may in general, be more depended upon, as to the authenticity of his teſtimony, than he who writes the lives of deceaſed perſons. Many eminent men, reſpecting whom poſterity have cauſe to lament the deficiency of biographical information, have paſſed their early days in obſcurity, and thoſe who then knew them were either too ignorant, or too unobſervant, to be able to make any communications reſpecting them. When Death has once ſet his ſeal upon their labours, few or no opportunities offer of obtaining ſatisfactory and circumſtantial information; their early contemporaries are, probably, alſo gone off the ſtage. From cauſes like theſe, how little is known of ſome of the moſt diſtinguiſhed luminaries that have irradiated the political and literary hemiſpheres! Of many we know only, that they filled elevated ſituations, that they compoſed ſplendid works, made important diſcoveries, died in a particular year, and were at length interred in ſome venerable repoſitory of the dead.

An

An annual publication like the preſent will beſt provide againſt a future deficiency of this kind, with regard to the diſtinguiſhed perſonages who now fill up the drama of public life in the Britiſh empire. The Editors are not likely to commit themſelves, and the reputation of their work, by inſerting direct falſehoods, or partial miſrepreſentations: no character, of whom they now or may hereafter treat, can be thought inſenſible to the love of contemporary or poſthumous fame; hence, ſhould any undeſigned error, or any inaccurate ſtatement, inadvertently eſcape them, it may be rationally preſumed, that the party affected, from a regard to his own reputation, will take the earlieſt opportunity to correct ſuch miſtatements; or that ſome friend, intimately acquainted with the ſubject, in the candour and warmth of eſteem, may be ſtimulated to write a more particular and accurate account, for a ſubſequent edition.

From theſe premiſes * may it not be reaſonably concluded, that this Work poſſeſſes

* Beſide other arguments which may be urged in recommendation of this novel undertaking, the Editors might quote the example of ſome of the moſt illuſtrious men in all ages and nations, who have judged it proper to write their own memoirs, and to publiſh them during their life-time a legi-

a legitimate claim to public patronage, as well from its promiſed utility to future biographers and hiſtorians, as from its being an highly entertaining and uſeful aſſemblage of intereſting and important facts and anecdotes?

In reſpect to the preſent volume, it is neceſſary to remark, that the articles are written by a number of gentlemen, whoſe adopted ſignatures are affixed to their reſpective communications. Such a multiplicity of facts in ſo extenſive and various a group of characters could not have been ſupplied by any one or two individuals. Although a delicate taſk, the mode generally adopted in the compoſition of this Work, has been to apply to ſome friend of the party, whoſe intimate knowledge of the relative facts and circumſtances qualified him to do ample juſtice to the character. This indiſpenſable arrangement, requiſite to produce the faithful execution of the volume, has, however, occaſioned a variety in the ſtyle and manner of the ſeveral articles, which, at firſt ſight, may give it a ſort of heterogeneous appearance, but will not detract from its real merit in the eſtimation of the judicious reader.

It is poſſible that a faſtidious obſerver, or other perſon more intimately connected with the ſubject of the ſeveral memoirs, may here and there detect ſome venial error, ſome trifling anachroniſm, or apparent miſconſtruction; for theſe the Editors can only atone, by expreſſing their earneſt wiſh for more correct information, which will be thankfully received, and punctually attended to in a future edition. That ſome inaccuracies are unavoidable in a work of this nature, muſt naturally be expected by every perſon accuſtomed to habits of literary compoſition, or who poſſeſſes ſufficient knowledge of the complicated occurrences which mark the career of public and private life.

The Editors are more ſeriouſly apprehenſive leſt, in any inſtance whatever, they ſhould unfortunately and unintentionally be a means of wounding the acute ſenſibility, the laudable ambition, or the generous pride of any individual;—no procedure could be more alien to their wiſhes and intentions. Any repreſentation on the part of thoſe who may think themſelves, aggrieved, which may be tranſmitted to the Editors, ſhall be treated with marked deference and attention. The moſt ſcrupulous caution has been exerciſed,

to

to diveſt the *tout enſemble* of every appearance of national and political partialities. *No attachment to any particular ſet of men or opinions, no prejudices againſt men in place, no prepoſſeſſions in favour of men out of place, no bias towards any controverted points of theology, no perſonal antipathies, no malevolent exaggerations, no invidious diſpoſition to detract from acknowledged virtue or merit, have influenced, in whole or in part, the conduct of the Projector and Conductors of the work.*

If the preſent volume ſhould be honoured by a degree of approbation and patronage correſponding to the anxious wiſhes and expectations of the Editors, it is their deſign to preſent the Public with a ſimilar volume in the courſe of the year 1799, and to continue the work in each ſucceeding year. That there will be abundant materials for ſuch a continuation muſt be obvious, when it is conſidered, that the following illuſtrious and prominent characters are omitted in the preſent volume, only for want of room or competent materials: Lord Loughborough, the Marquis of Lanſdowne, the Duke of Grafton, the Duke of Bedford, Lord Kenyon, Mr. Sheridan, Lord Grenville, the Duke of Portland, Earl Howe, Earl St. Vincent,

Vincent, Lord Bridport, Lord Auckland, Mr. Tierney, Mr. Wilberforce, Sir Joſeph Banks, Mr. Weſt, Earl Spencer, Earl Fitzwilliam, Mr. Haſtings, Mr. Wyndham, the Earl of Lauderdale, the Duke of Leeds, Lord Somerville, and nearly three hundred other eminent and remarkable perſons, connected with the political and literary world.

For the ſake of variety, no particular arrangement of the articles has been adopted; an attention to the ſame object has alſo dictated the multifarious choice of characters. Each reader will probably judge of the requiſite degree of publicity annexed to a perſonage, according to his own peculiar connexions and caſt of thinking: it is believed, however, that no character is inſerted, which is not juſtly conſidered as conſpicuous in a very extended circle, and which does not poſſeſs a ſufficient degree of merit, or original feature, to be properly entitled to public notice.

Communications for the ſecond volume, or corrections of the preſent, are requeſted to be addreſſed to Mr. Phillips, No. 71, St. Paul's Church-yard.

November 10, 1798.

Portraits given in the Frontiſpiece, which will be found to be as ſtriking Likeneſſes as any that have appeared, and all of them ſtrongly characteriſtic.

1. LORD NELSON.
2. EARL MOIRA.
3. ARCH BISHOP OF CANTERBURY.
4. LORD HOOD.
5. CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND.
6. MR. KEMBLE.
7. MR. THOMAS TAYLOR.
8. Dr. TOWERS.
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10. MR. DAVID WILLIAMS.
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15. ALDERMAN BOYDELL.
16. DR. HERSCHELL.
17. JUDGE BULLER.
18. SIR JOHN SINCLAIR.
19. DR. HAWEIS.
20. BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.
21. MR. PITT.
22. MR. DUNDAS.
23. LORD DUNCAN.
24. MR. A. NEWLAND.
25. MARQUIS CORNWALLIS.
26. MR. MURPHY.
27. BISHOP OF LONDON.
28. DR. DARWIN.
29. DR. BURNEY.
30. MR. GRATTAN.

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PUBLIC CHARACTERS,

OF 1798.

THE EARL OF MOIRA.

FEW noblemen have made a more early, or a more meritorious figure in military and civil life, than the illuſtrious ſubject of this ſketch. Francis, Lord Rawdon, Earl of Moira, was born December the 7th, 1754, and was created a baron of Great Britain in 1783.

Having completed his education about the commencement of the American war, his lordſhip entered into the army, and embarked with his regiment for that continent, where he took a very active part throughout the whole of the unfortunate conteſt with the eſtranged and alienated colonies.

Lord Rawdon's character, from the earlieſt period, has been uniformly marked by a cool and intrepid courage, governed by that calm ſerenity of ſoul which is the reſult of the moſt unblemiſhed honour. He gave early proofs of the poſſeſſion of this enviable qualification, when he was lieutenant of grenadiers at the memorable battle of Bunker's Hill. The late General Burgoyne, who, though not in the action, was familiarly acquainted with its detail, and indeed a ſpectator of the conteſt, in a letter written to England, makes uſe of this remarkable expreſſion—"*Lord*

Rawdon has this day ſtamped his fame for life." His lordſhip was afterwards at the ſtorming of Fort Clinton.

In 1778, he was appointed adjutant-general to the Britiſh forces, under the command of Sir Henry Clinton, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the army. In this capacity he ſhewed himſelf not only brave, but active and judicious; and rendered eſſential ſervice in the hazardous retreat of the Britiſh army through the Jerſeys, from Philadelphia to New York, and alſo in the action at Monmouth. He afterwards embarked with the troops for Charleſtown, and ſerved at the ſiege of that place, where he acquitted himſelf with ſuch ſingular judgment and diſtinguiſhed valour, that, notwithſtanding his want of years, and conſequently preſumed inexperience, he was appointed to the command of a ſeparate corps in the province of South Carolina. In a ſhort time after, he joined the army under Lord Cornwallis, and at the battle of Camden had the command of one of the diviſions, with which he commenced the action, and which proved one of the moſt brilliant and deciſive in favour of the Britiſh arms.

During Lord Rawdon's ſubſequent command in Charleſtown, an affair happened in which (through a warm zeal for the ſervice) he appeared to be much implicated; and which, although it has been, and ſtill is, juſtified by his friends, was ſeverely cenſured by the Americans, and afterwards condemned by many of the Oppoſition here. It became alſo an object of enquiry in the Houſe of Lords. He ſtood, however, perfectly clear on the ground of honour and principle; and the worſt inſinuation never more than blamed a ſevere and warm diſpoſition to enforce a rigorous military regulation. With regard to any poſſible imputation of inhumanity, his lordſhip's whole life has been of ſo oppoſite a complexion, and has been ſo uniformly marked by traits of the moſt refined philanthropy, that it never

never was in the power even of party-obloquy to arraign him in that reſpect.

Lord Rawdon on his return to England was created a peer of Great Britain, and nominated one of his Majeſty's aids-de-camp.

About this time his lordſhip's conduct in the affair already alluded to (the execution of Colonel Hayne), was mentioned by the Duke of Richmond in ſuch a manner as to give great umbrage; ſufficient, indeed, to induce Lord Rawdon to call upon his grace for an explanation. After ſeveral meſſages, through the interference of friends, the Duke of Richmond agreed to read ſuch a recantation in the Houſe of Lords, as Lord Rawdon ſhould think proper to dictate.

About the latter end of 1793, he was nominated to the command of a body of troops which was encamped in the neighbourhood of Southampton, and in conjunction with the emigrant corps, was to act offenſively againſt France. The original object of their aſſembling being ſhortly after altered for the purpoſe of ſtrengthening our little army upon the continent, the Earl of Moira embarked with them, and landed at Oſtend. In his conduct on this occaſion he diſplayed much military knowledge, ſharing every fatigue with the common ſoldier, and evincing an activity of mind which produced the moſt beneficial effects. He managed the debarkation in ſo ſuperior a ſtyle of military manœuvre, and continued his march up the country with ſo much generalſhip, that the enemy, who lay in the neighbourhood, and were in conſiderable force, ſuſpended a premeditated attack againſt our line of poſts in Flanders, from a ſuppoſition, that Earl Moira's army was four times as numerous as it really was. Under the influence of this firſt impreſſion, his lordſhip proceeded on his march, without cannon, and with very little baggage, through an incloſed country, and with a moſt formidable foe, commanded by

Isaac Hayne taken prisoner + executed by Crown forces under Lord Rawdon on pretence of being found in arms against British Govt after he had accepted its protection and become a subject to it.

one of the firſt generals in the republican ſervice, conſtantly hanging upon his flanks. By the rapidity of his motions, which were ſo well aided by the ſagacity of his original manœuvre at the debarkation, he ſucceeded in joining the Duke of York, whoſe advanced ſituation had become precarious in a high degree. On this occaſion his lordſhip had a moſt narrow eſcape: the vanguard of the French army, which by this time had been undeceived with regard to the real ſtrength of the expedition, entering a town at the ſame inſtant in which the Britiſh rear quitted it. Some partial ſkirmiſhes took place at Aloſt, halfway between Ghent and Bruſſels; which, although trifling, continued to add to his lordſhip's military character. Having thus accompliſhed the object of the expedition, he ſoon after returned to England, where he remained inactive, although ſtill inveſted with a ſort of command at Southampton.

Lord Rawdon in the Houſe of Peers has proved himſelf a clear, judicious, and able orator. His exertions to relieve the diſtreſſes of perſons impriſoned for ſmall debts, will remain a monument of philanthropy upon our parliamentary records; while his manly deportment throughout every debate in this and the ſiſter kingdom ſerves to prove, that his ſteadineſs as a ſtateſman is not inferior to his intrepidity as a ſoldier. We will venture to predict, in the face of much prejudice, that whenever the troubles of Ireland ſhall have ſubſided, Earl Moira's anticipation of them, and conſequent ſtruggles to prevent their exploſion, will more than counterbalance any poſſible miſapprehenſion of the real motives by which the leaders of that rebellion have been actuated. His unequivocal conduct at the late ſtate trials in Maidſtone, ſufficiently evinces, that the moſt inveterate foe cannot even inſinuate the faineſt compromiſe with their inſidious views; whilſt the caution and judgment with which he has uniformly conducted himſelf, whenever the celebrity of his name has drawn him into any

ſpecies

ſpecies of political intercourſe, will mark his character with no ſmall degree of ſagacity and penetration.

With regard to Earl Moira's private virtues, we ſhall not run the hazard of imputed adulation, when we ſay, that large as are his means, his equally extenſive benevolence has made deeper inroads into his fortune, than perhaps that of any other character of the age. Uninfluenced by party-ſpirit, whenever individual merit has been brought within the circle of his obſervation, and viewing that merit through the impartial optics of general philanthropy, without ſuffering a prejudice to intervene from the want of high birth or family connexion, he has on more occaſions than one, forerun the moſt ſanguine expectations; and when it has no longer been in his power to aſſiſt the different objects of his patronage, he has ſoftened the hardſhip of diſappointment by the moſt friendly marks of ſincerity and attention. It is, therefore, the leſs ſurpriſing, that in his retirement he ſhould uniformly have eſcaped—what few good men do eſcape—the ingratitude of any one perſon who has ever been employed under, or been countenanced by his lordſhip.

With an acknowledged character of this high and honourable ſpecies, it is natural, that his acceſs to the firſt branches of the royal family, ſhould be eaſy, and that he ſhould be always diſtinguiſhed by the ſtrongeſt marks of confidence and familiarity. The latter epithet is the more appropriate, becauſe his reception at Carlton and York Houſes is ever marked by the moſt unequivocal teſtimonies of friendſhip. His Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales, whoſe cauſe he warmly eſpouſed in the memorable diſcuſſion of the regency-bill, has on many occaſions teſtified the ſtrongeſt attachment to his lordſhip*; and it is well known,

* His lordſhip is a very active, we had almoſt ſaid enthuſiaſtic, freemaſon, and has always been the acting grand-maſter of that ſociety, ever ſince

known, that the Duke of York made choice of Lord Rawdon to be his ſecond in the affair of honour with Colonel, now Major-general, Lenox.

By the death of his uncle, the Earl of Huntingdon, Lord Rawdon acquired an ample fortune, and was permitted by the king to aſſume the arms and name of Haſtings; and on his father's death he ſucceeded to the Iriſh title and patrimony of Earl of Moira. His mother poſſeſſes the ancient Barony of Haſtings, and the other baronies in fee, belonging to the Earls of Huntingdon, which at her death will deſcend to him.

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ſince the Prince of Wales was elected to the office of Grand-maſter. His lordſhip drew up the elegant addreſs to his Majeſty, which was preſented by the grand lodge of England, in 1793, and which may be conſidered as a complete refutation of the charges brought againſt the brotherhood by Abbé Barruel, and Profeſſor Robiſon.

SIR,

SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART. LL.D.

THE Sinclairs of Ulbſter in Caithneſs are an opulent branch of the family of the earls, who derive their titles from the name of the county. The late Mr. Sinclair enjoyed an extenſive eſtate in that northern ſhire; and his anceſtors, in a former period, muſt have undoubtedly poſſeſſed ſomewhat like a petty ſovereignty, claiming at leaſt the right of *pot* and *gallows*, or in other words, the power either of drowning or hanging their enemies. His rental is ſaid to have amounted to nearly fifteen hundred a-year; and when it is conſidered, that ſome of the lands are not at this day worth three halfpence an acre, and that it is a very favourable year indeed when the walnut will kernel, or the apricot reach maturity, it may be eaſily ſuppoſed, that a ſmall tract of territory will not produce that income.

John, born in 1754, is the ſon of the *laird of Ulbſter*, by Lady Jane Sutherland; being an only child, he received the firſt rudiments of his education under the paternal roof, from a private preceptor. While yet a boy, he gave frequent inſtances of his induſtry and application, and exhibited a taſte for books, and a turn for reſearch, which has invariably marked his character through life.

After the uſual preliminary ſtudies, the attractions of the high-ſchool at Edinburgh carried the *young laird* thither; he then removed to the univerſities of Glaſgow and Oxford; and paſſing through the various claſſes, with the approbation of all the profeſſors, who were loud in praiſe of his induſtry, he returned home.

Both in Scotland and Ireland there is but one profeſſion, excluſive of the military, to which the ſon of a man of fortune will ſtoop; this is the law. That which, in the opinion

opinion of ſome, ſavours of the *quiddam mercenarium*, as much as any other employment, is the only one to which they will bend: every thing elſe, according to them, ſavours of trade; and it is to be feared, that agriculture, notwithſtanding many illuſtrious examples to the contrary, is ſtill conſidered ſomewhat in the ſame light as it was once by a Roman of equeſtrian rank *.

It was to the ſtudy of the law, then, that Sir John Sinclair firſt bent his mind. He accordingly repaired once more to the capital of Scotland, and became a member of the ſociety of advocates. Here again his induſtry diſplayed itſelf, but took a new direction; for he was now conſtantly ſeen in their noble library, rummaging ancient titles, poring over moth-eaten records, and inveſtigating the contents of muſty parchments. In ſhort, he then laid the foundation of a certain ſpecies of knowledge, which entitled him at one time to the praiſe of being more minutely acquainted with the *chartularies* of Scotland, than any of his contemporaries of the ſame ſtanding. But it was not as an antiquary only that he acquired reputation, for he conſtantly frequented the *ſpeculative ſociety*, and firſt diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his ſpeeches there.

After reviſiting England, where he muſt undoubtedly have acquired a taſte for agriculture, he was returned member for his native county; and he ſoon diſtinguiſhed himſelf from the reſt of his countrymen, who, unleſs called upon *officially*, are generally very abſtemious in the article of oratory; and now that *honeſt George Dempſter* has retired, this circumſtance alone would attract notice in the preſent age.

Sir John Sinclair firſt appeared in the character of an author in 1782, at which time he publiſhed "Obſerva-

* "Non fuit conſilium ſocordia atque deſidia bonum otium conterere: neque vero, *agrum colendo*, aut venando, *ſervilibus officiis* intentum, ætatem agere," &c.

SALL. BELL. CAT.

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tions on the Scottiſh Dialect;" on this occaſion he candidly acknowledged, that he had been aſſiſted by the late Sir John Henderſon's papers.

But his principal work, and one indeed for which he was admirably fitted, both by nature and habit, was his "Hiſtory of the Public Revenue of the Britiſh Empire;" of which Parts I. and II. were publiſhed in 1789, and Part III. in 1790. The period was peculiarly appropriate for a diſcuſſion of this nature, as Neckar had aroufed the attention of all Europe, by his work on the finances of France, while the diſpute between him and Calonne, tended not a little to develope the modern myſteries of finance; myſteries, which, like thoſe of the BONA DEA in ancient times were till then doomed to be kept ſecret from all but the immediate votaries.

In every point of view, this muſt be allowed to be a moſt important work; and had the proper inductions been made, it would have ſaved us from many ſubſequent calamities. The progreſſive income of the public revenue, from 400,000l. in the time of William the Conqueror (1070), until 1788 in the reign of George III. when it amounted to only 15,572,971*l.**, affords a very flattering proof of the revenues of the nation; yet when it is conſidered, on the other hand, that the war expences during the whole reign of William III. amounted to only 30,447,382*l.* and that the ſum ſquandered in the project of ſubjugating America formed a total of 139,171,876*l.* it was eaſy to foreſee the dangers inſeparable from any other than a pacific ſyſtem.

But Sir John does not content himſelf with dry details, for he enters on the ocean of financial ſpeculation; and propoſes, by economical arrangements, improvements in the exiſting revenues, new and additional taxes, and lucra-

* It is now eſtimated at about 27,000,000*l.* having experienced a riſe of more than eleven millions and a half per ann. in the ſpace of ten years.

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tive projects, to meliorate the national income, by the amazing sum of 13,796,874*l.* It must, however, be allowed, that some of his suggestions, if necessary, are at the same time humiliating; for he proposes, amongst other things, to sell Gibraltar. One of his projects is perhaps immoral, as he recommends lotteries; another (a poll-tax) odious and insufferable; and a third, the reduction of the coinage, pregnant with mischief. An excise on dress, to the amount of 100,000*l.* per ann. appears whimsical; but a tax on dogs, here first hinted, and computed at 62,500*l.* has been carried into execution, to the great diminution of the pleasures of men of small fortunes, attached to country sports, and the *decimation* at least of the whole canine race in Great Britain.

The following sentiments are worthy of attention; would to heaven they had been followed up before it was perhaps too late! would to heaven that they were still listened to by the governments of the nations to which they were then addressed!

"The more the people are loaded, the less they can "bear in addition; the struggle, therefore, between the "rival nations, and the boast and glory of their statesmen, "ought to be, not who pays the most, but from whom "the least is exacted. May such be the great source of "competition between France and England: may the "rulers of both kingdoms contend, for the future, whose "administration shall prove the lightest, and least burden-"some: and may the rivalship never cease, until both "countries attain such ease and abundance, that, in the "memorable words of Henry IV. of France, 'le plus "pauvre pût tous les Dimanches mettre une poule au "pot;' or in the plain language of this country, until the "poorest labourer can enjoy a comfortable dinner with his "family on Sunday!"

Sir

Sir John ſoon after appeared before the public in the character of an author, or rather editor, of a work entitled, "The Statiſtical Account of Scotland." In the year 1789-90, he had circulated among the clergy of that country a variety of queries for the purpoſe of elucidating the national hiſtory, and the moral, agricultural, and political ſtate of North Britain. This admirable undertaking reflects great honour on the Caledonian prieſthood, and obtained for the projector the appellation of the "patriotic ſenator." The work in queſtion has extended to thirteen volumes, of which the two firſt were publiſhed in 1791-2, and the others in 1793-4.

We had not been long engaged in the preſent conteſt, to which however, we believe, he had at firſt aſſented by his vote, before Sir John perceived the dreadful conſequences likely to accrue to our finances from its progreſs, and even anticipated that ſtoppage of money payments at the bank, which at one period was conſidered as likely to give a death-blow to our credit. He accordingly addreſſed a ſeries of letters to the governor and directors, as early as September, 1795, "on the pecuniary diſtreſſes, and the "means of preventing them," which do honour to his foreſight. Theſe were publiſhed in 1797.

Let us now conſider Sir John Sinclair as a ſenator. We believe, in the firſt part of his political career, he was attached to Mr. Pitt; and it is but fair here to obſerve, that the greater part of the nation were at one time, and perhaps ſtill are, dragged by the chain of opinion after the triumphal car of that celebrated ſtateſman. He ſoon, however, had occaſion to change his mind; and we find him oppoſing one of his favourite plans, known by the name of the commutation-act, which he qualified by the title of "a "wanton and unneceſſary experiment."

During the important and critical period of the regency, when it was generally believed that new men and a new ſyſtem

ſyſtem would prevail *, Sir John appears to have joined the phalanx headed by Mr. Fox and Lord North; and, if not a rancorous, to have diſplayed an uniform hoſtility to the meaſures of Mr. Pitt; we accordingly find him, as member for Leſtwithiel †, ſupporting the previous queſtion, moved by Lord North, on Tueſday, December 16th, 1788, which, had it been carried, would have obliged Mr. Pitt to retire from the treaſury bench.

Three days after this (Friday, December 19th) he expreſſed his aſtoniſhment, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer "ſhould call the ſyſtem of meaſures that he had "explained to the Houſe, a ſyſtem conſiſtent with the "principles of the conſtitution, when it was in *direct oppoſition* to law." He aſſerted, on the contrary, that his project was equally hoſtile to the conſtitution and the laws, and forcibly deprecated the aſſumption of the power intended to be called forth during the ſuſpended exerciſe of royal authority. The proper and ſimple mode of procedure for the two Houſes to adopt, in his opinion, was for them to addreſs the only individual ‡, that all men's eyes were fixed upon, as the fit perſon to undertake the adminiſtration of government, in like manner as our anceſtors addreſſed the Prince of Orange a century ago; this, he conceived, would have been the direct conſtitutional line of proceeding; but what has been ſubſtituted, bore ſuch evi-

* In the "Appendix to the Hiſtory of the Public Revenue," printed in 1789, after mentioning his diſappointment at not receiving aſſiſtance from the records of the different offices, the author proceeds thus: "In the mean "while an event of a nature the moſt unforeſeen and diſtreſſing has taken "place, *from which* a change of government may be looked for, and as "his wiſhes for information may poſſibly be gratified by ſome future "miniſter, &c."

† He received this ſeat not as a favour from the crown, but as an equivalent for his intereſt in the diſtrict boroughs of Tain, Kirkwall, &c.

‡ The Prince of Wales.

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dent marks of uſurpation, and rendered it ſo obnoxious to the welfare of the country, that he was determined to bring forward a plan of his own, to obtain a conſtitutional eſtabliſhment of a regency, and when the right honourable member's ſyſtem came on again in that Houſe, he would ſubject his propoſal to their conſideration.

When the grand queſtion reſpecting the ſlave trade was agitated, in 1792, Sir John aſked certain queſtions of Mr. Pitt, reſpecting the horrid traffic of our own and foreign nations in their fellow men, but did not take any decided part on that ſubject. It is difficult, indeed, preciſely to define his opinions, but it is with pain we expreſs our belief, that they were averſe to the claims of outraged humanity.

During the ſcarcity of corn that prevailed in 1795-6, we find him more honourably occupied. On Friday, December 11th, he made a motion for a ſelect committee, and recommended a *general incloſing bill*, the "intention" of which, "was to preclude calamity and diſtreſs in future; "to cut up famine by the roots; to prevent it again coming within the boundaries of this iſland; to render it "unneceſſary ever to grant bounties on the importation of "foreign grain; all of which could be effected, by reſolving to cultivate the waſte, unincloſed, and unproductive lands of the kingdom."

In March, 1796, he renewed the ſame ſubject; and after obſerving that there was land enough in the country to feed its inhabitants, he ſtated, that in 1795-6, it had been rendered neceſſary to import one million of quarters of grain, at an expence of three millions ſterling, great part of which was exported in coin, and had thereby contributed, in a great degree, to the then ſcarcity of ſpecie.

When the debate took place (February 28, 1796) reſpecting the ſituation of the bank, Sir John afforded a pregnant

nant inſtance of his reſearch, by quoting a precedent that occurred in 1696, when this ſame great commercial company had ſtruggled under ſimilar difficulties; and it is not a little aſtoniſhing, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer appeared to be totally unacquainted with the proceedings of the period alluded to, although they were ſtrictly in point.

When Mr. Pitt introduced his bill for the redemption of the land-tax, it was ſtrenuouſly oppoſed by "the patriotic "ſenator," who objected to it on a variety of grounds.

Sir John Sinclair has been twice married; firſt to a relation of the Earl of Lauderdale, and ſecondly to a daughter of the late Lord Macdonald; by the latter he has a ſon, and by the former two daughters.

Previouſly to his nomination to be preſident of the Board of Agriculture, he eſtabliſhed a ſociety at Edinburgh, for the improvement of Britiſh wool; and he has exhibited ſpecimens of Orkney ſheep, whoſe fleeces are far ſuperior in point of fineneſs, although we believe not in *length*, to thoſe of Spain.

In the courſe of the preſent war, he has raiſed two battalions, called the "Rothſay and Caithneſs fencible infantry," of both of which he is colonel; his commiſſions are dated March 7th, and December 19th, 1794. The ſecond is now ſerving in Ireland.

It may not be amiſs here to remark, that his regiment is dreſſed after the uſual manner of the highlanders, with a very becoming and indeed decent alteration in reſpect to the covering of the *lower extremities*; the men wearing *trews*, or cloſe tartan trowſers, inſtead of the *kilt*, or ſhort petticoat, which permits the knees to remain naked, and in ſome of the military movements, even expoſes the poſteriors! In a diſſertation lately written by him on that ſubject, he endeavours to prove this to be the ancient Celtic dreſs,

dreſs, and quotes Gibbon, Henry, &c. beſides ſome traditional authorities on this ſubject. He has alſo brought forward the evidence of ancient Scotch ballads, particularly that of "Tak' your Auld Cloak about ye;" ſuppoſed to be written in the time of Robert Bruce:

"In days when our King Robert rang,
"His *trews* they coſt but ha'f a crown,
"He ſaid they were a groat ou'r dear,
"And ca'd the taylor thief and loun."

It will appear from what has been mentioned, that Sir John Sinclair is a man of great perſeverance and induſtry. He has attained a very conſiderable degree of knowledge, in reſpect to the finances and reſources of this country, and has of late years, experienced a marked oppoſition from Mr. Pitt, who by means, perhaps, not very liberal, is ſaid to have tumbled him down in the twinkling of an eye from the chair of the Board of Agriculture.

He has been impeached of recommending camps in the neighbourhood of the metropolis, in time of peace; a ſyſtem perhaps but too familiar with the prejudices of his early life. The friends of the premier alſo accuſe him of having written a letter to a great perſonage, at the diſſolution of the laſt parliament, ſoliciting a *ſeat* in either of two great houſes, and obſerving, that an hereditary one would be moſt conſonant to his dignity as preſident of the Board of Agriculture. It is to his pretended diſappointment on this occaſion, that they trace the origin of a kind of *armed neutrality*, and a dereliction of the premier, to whom he was once ſo greatly attached.

It is impoſſible to decide with any degree of accuracy reſpecting charges ſo vague and ſecret in their very nature; we can only obſerve, that he is one of the ableſt and moſt opulent, and we are inclined alſo to conſider him as one of the moſt independent of our modern legiſlators.

Sir

Sir John Sinclair was created a baronet, February 4th, 1786; but whether his claims originated from the title of his original anceſtor, Sir George Sinclair of Clythe, who ſat in the Scottiſh Parliament, at the beginning of the preſent century, or in his own merits, the author of this ſketch is unable to determine.

Previouſly to his receiving patent honours, he had become entitled to academical ones, having obtained the degree of Doctor of Laws ſome years before.

A.

MR.

MR. ROSCOE.

THE hiſtory of the celebrated author of the Life of Lorenzo de Medicis, evinces the wonderful effects which reſult from aſſiduous induſtry, ſuperadded to the intuitive rapidity of genius. Favoured by no advantages of education, foſtered by no patronage, raiſed by the native energies of his mind alone, Mr. Roſcoe has reached a pitch of literary eminence, which is rarely attained even by thoſe who have made the beſt uſe of the privileges of academic inſtruction.

His parents moved in the humbler ſphere of life; they were of courſe precluded by their circumſtances from giving their ſon a very extenſive education; and, with a ſtrange perverſeneſs of temper, he obſtinately refuſed to attend at the day-ſchool where his father wiſhed him to be taught writing and arithmetic. In conſequence, he had not even the common opportunities of acquiring knowledge uſually enjoyed by thoſe of the ſame ſtation in life as himſelf. He was thus fated to be the architect of his own fame.

But though he threw off the trammels of the ſchool, he was not idle:—he read much, and thought more.

At an early age he was articled as clerk in the office of Mr. Eyes, an attorney, in Liverpool. Soon after this period he was ſtimulated to undertake the ſtudy of the Latin language, by one of his companions boaſting that he had read Cicero de Amicitia, and ſpeaking in high terms of the elegance of the ſtyle, and the ſentiments of that compoſition. Mr. R. immediately procured the treatiſe in queſtion; and ſmoothing the difficulties by perpetual reference to his grammar as well as to his dictionary, he drudged through

the taſk which emulation had incited him to undertake. The ſucceſs which he experienced in his firſt effort prompted him to proceed; and he did not ſtop in his career till he had read the moſt diſtinguiſhed of the Latin claſſics. In this purſuit he was encouraged by the friendly intercourſe of Mr. Francis Holden, an eccentric genius and excellent ſcholar.

Having made conſiderable progreſs in the Latin language, Mr. R. ſtill without the aſſiſtance of a maſter, proceeded to the ſtudy of the French and Italian. The beſt authors in each of theſe tongues ſoon became familiar to him; and it is ſuppoſed that few natives of the country have ſo general and recondite a knowledge of Italian literature, as the ſubject of the preſent memoir.

During the whole of this period, Mr. R. regularly attended at the office; and his ſeaſons of ſtudy were the intervals of buſineſs.

His attachment to the muſe was of a very early date. While yet a boy he read with avidity the works of the beſt Engliſh poets. Of their beauties he had an exquiſite ſenſe; and it may eaſily be imagined that the earlieſt of his compoſitions were of the poetical claſs. "Mount Pleaſant," a deſcriptive poem, which he wrote in his 16th year, is a record not only of the fertility of his genius, but of the correctneſs of his taſte.

Soon after the expiration of his clerkſhip, Mr. R. was taken into partnerſhip by Mr. Aſpinwall, a very reſpectable attorney of the town of Liverpool; and the entire management of an office, extenſive in practice, and high in reputation, devolved upon him alone. In this ſituation he conducted himſelf in ſuch a manner as to gain univerſal reſpect. For notwithſtanding his various purſuits, he had paid ſtrict attention to his profeſſion, and had acquired a liberal and minute knowledge of law. And in clearneſs of comprehenſion,

comprehenſion, and rapidity of diſpatch in buſineſs he had few equals.

About this time he commenced an acquaintance with the late * Dr. Enfield, and the preſent Dr. Aiken, then reſident at Warrington, the former being tutor in the belles lettres, in the Warrington academy, and the latter eſtabliſhed as a ſurgeon in that town. Theſe gentlemen had the honour of being early ſenſible of his ſurprizing talents, and they contracted with him a friendſhip which was ſure to be laſting, as it was built on the ſolid baſis of mutual eſteem.

Mr. R. ſeems to have been almoſt intuitively gifted with a correct taſte in the arts of painting and ſtatuary. On the 17th December, 1773, he read to the members of a ſociety, formed in Liverpool, for the encouragement of deſigning, drawing, painting, &c. an ode on the inſtitution of the aforeſaid ſociety, which was afterwards publiſhed, together with his poem entitled Mount Pleaſant. Of this ſociety he was a very active aſſociate, and occaſionally gave public lectures on ſubjects appropriate to the object of the inſtitution.

When the voice of humanity was raiſed againſt the ſlave trade, Mr. R. fearleſs of the inconvenience to which the circumſtances of his local ſituation might expoſe him, ſtood forth a zealous and enlightened advocate for the abolition of that inhuman traffic. In his boyiſh days, indeed, he had expreſſed his feelings on this ſubject in the following beautiful lines, which are extracted from the above-mentioned poem, Mount Pleaſant, p. 13:

There Afric's ſwarthy ſons their toils repeat,
Beneath the fervors of the noon-tide heat;
Torn from each joy that crown'd their native ſoil,
No ſweet reflections mitigate their toil;

* When Dr. E. publiſhed the 2d vol. of the Speaker, Mr. R. furniſhed him with an Elegy to Pity, and an Ode to Education.

From morn to eve, by rigorous hands oppreſt,
Dull fly their hours, of every hope unbleſt :
Till broke with labour, helpleſs, and forlorn,
From their weak graſp the ling'ring morſel torn ;
The reed-built hovel's friendly ſhade deny'd ;
The jeſt of folly, and the ſcorn of pride ;
Drooping beneath meridian ſuns they lie,
Lift the faint head, and bend the imploring eye ;
Till death, in kindneſs, from the tortured breaſt
Calls the free ſpirit to the realms of reſt.
Shame to mankind ! but ſhame to Britons moſt,
Who all the ſweets of liberty can boaſt ;
Yet, deaf to every human claim, deny
That bliſs to others which themſelves enjoy :
Life's bitter draught with harſher bitter fill,
Blaſt every joy, and add to every ill ;
The trembling limbs with galling iron bind,
Nor looſe the heavier bondage of the mind.

Thus, by his own reflections, Mr. R. was prepared to enter with ardor into the views of the friends of ſuffering humanity. He had frequent converſations with Mr. Clarkſon, who firſt drew the attention of the kingdom at large to this national diſgrace. A ſpecious pamphlet was publiſhed in defence of the trade, intituled, *Scriptural Reſearches into the Licitneſs of the Slave Trade*, and written by a Spaniſh Jeſuit of the name of Harris. Mr. R. anſwered it with great ſpirit and acuteneſs, in a counter-pamphlet intituled, *A Scriptural Refutation of a Pamphlet lately publiſhed by the Rev. Raymund Harris.*

But this copious and intereſting ſubject awakened all his ſympathies, and the public were gratified by a moſt affecting poem, intituled, *The Wrongs of Africa.* This poem Mr. R. intended to complete in three parts. The two firſt appeared in 1787 and 1788, but the lovers of genuine poetry have to lament that he has not yet fulfilled his promiſe of favouring them with the publication of the third.

A mind

A mind ſo active and generous as Mr. R's could not be unintereſted in that ſtupendous event, the French Revolution. He caught the enthuſiaſtic glow which warmed the breaſts of the friends of freedom, while they beheld a mighty nation throwing off the fetters of deſpotiſm; and fondly hoped that the conſequences of their exertion would be laſting peace, good order, and equal laws. He tuned the lyre on this bewitching theme, and proclaimed the praiſes of Freedom in a tranſlation of an ode of Petrarch, which found its way into the *Mercurio Italico*; a ſong intuled, *Millions be Free*, and the famous poem, *The Vine-covered Hills*, which may be claſſed among the moſt finiſhed compoſitions in the Engliſh language.

During the ſeaſon of tumult and diſcord, which ſucceeded the attempt of the combined powers to reinſtate, in the plenitude of its authority, the deſpotiſm of France (an attempt in which this country, fatally to itſelf, too cordially united), Mr. R. was buſily employed in writing the Hiſtory of Lorenzo de Medicis. This work was begun about the year 1790. It may be preſumed that it has now paſſed through the ordeal of criticiſm: more than two years have elapſed ſince its publication. The literary world have had time to recover from the dazzle of ſurprize—and the buz of ignorant applauſe, raiſed by the leaders of literary faſhion, is ſtill. The ſentence of ſober judgment confirms the verdict which was paſſed according to the dictates of firſt impreſſions. The liberal acumen of Parr has aſſayed the life of Lorenzo, and has found it ſterling gold. Its dignity and grace have ſhielded its author from the mercileſs tomahawk of the writer* of the *Purſuits of Literature*; and we may fairly preſume that its rank is fixed among the moſt ſplendid ornaments of Engliſh literature.

* Mr. Mathias.

The

The admiration with which the public have been affected by the perusal of this work will, no doubt, be encreased by a knowledge of the circumstances in which it was composed. At the time when it was projected, Mr. R. lived at the distance of two miles from Liverpool, whither he was obliged daily to repair to attend the business of his office. The dry and tedious details of law occupied his attention during the whole of the morning and afternoon; his evenings alone he was able to dedicate to study; and it will be easily conceived, that a gentleman, surrounded by a numerous family, and whose company was courted by his friends, must have experienced, even at these hours, a variety of interruptions. No public library provided him with materials. The rare books which he had occasion to consult, he was obliged to procure in London at a considerable expence. But in the midst of all these difficulties the work grew under his hands. In order that it might be printed under his own inspection, he established an excellent press at Liverpool, and submitted to the disgusting toil of correcting the proofs. The History of Lorenzo de Medicis was at length published early in the year 1796.

Soon after the publication of his history, Mr. R. relinquished the profession of an attorney, and entered himself at Gray's Inn, with a view of acting as a barrister.

He took advantage of the leisure which the relinquishment of business afforded him, to enter upon the study of the Greek language; to which, according to the report of his intimate friends, he has made considerable progress.

The public have, with concordant voice, called upon Mr. R. for the life of Leo X.; and Lord Holland, and Lord Bristol have, with great liberality, promised their assistance in procuring from Italy, and other parts of the continent, whatever documents he might think it necessary to consult in the execution of so grand a design. The

lovers

lovers of polite literature will be glad to hear that Mr. R. has actually begun this expected work; but such is the troubled state of Europe, that he is debarred, at present, from the use of materials which might be collected abroad.

In the course of his conduct, Mr. R. has uniformly maintained a character of simplicity, sincerity, and benevolence. He acts uprightly without effort. Ill-fated genius cannot plead his history as a precedent for irregularity of life; nor will his example sanction the herd of men of abilities, who deem their talents a licence to live in idleness, and prey upon the public. His resources are in his own exertions. He is, in every sense of the word, an independent man. Long may he enjoy the blessings which are the meed of virtue!

M.N.

THE

THE EARL OF LIVERPOOL.

THE riſe of this nobleman muſt be allowed to have been rapid; and if we are to believe his enemies, it is unexampled in our annals, ſince the time of the Spenſers. This, however, is not ſtrictly true, for it might be eaſy to point out many others who have been fully as fortunate in the courſe of the preſent reign, and attained equal honours with perhaps inferior pretenſions.

On his being ennobled, it was obſerved, with more rancour than truth, that his family diſgraced the peerage; whereas the truth is, that on the ſcore of birth, his pretenſions are ſuperior to many of thoſe with whom he aſſociates, either in the ſenate, or at the council board. His anceſtors have been ſettled more than a century at Walcot, near Charlbury, in Oxfordſhire. His grandfather, Sir Robert Jenkinſon, married a wealthy heireſs at Bromley, in Kent; and his father, who was a colonel in the army, reſided at South Lawn Lodge, in Whichwood Foreſt.

Charles Jenkinſon received the firſt rudiments of his education at the grammar-ſchool of Burford, two miles diſtant from his father's houſe; and many perſons are ſtill living in that neighbourhood, who addreſs him as their old ſchool-fellow. He was afterwards placed on the foundation in the Charter Houſe, and ſeems to have been ſo well ſatisfied with the inſtitution, that he educated his eldeſt ſon, the preſent Lord Hawkeſbury, there. From this eminent ſeminary he was removed to Oxford, where he firſt imbibed, perhaps, his political ſentiments, and was entered a member of the Univerſity College. There he took two degrees, that of B.A. and A.M. and ſeems to have made himſelf

himſelf firſt known by ſome verſes on the much-lamented death of the Prince of Wales, the father to his preſent Majeſty.

In 1753, he removed from Oxford, without obtaining, and perhaps without ſoliciting, a fellowſhip; and in 1753, publiſhed his firſt proſe tract, entitled, "A Diſcourſe on the Conduct of the Government of Great Britain, with reſpect to Neutral Nations during the preſent War." He afterwards wrote ſeveral other pamphlets; and one in particular, on the benefit reſulting from a militia, or armed national force, independent of a ſtanding army. This abounds with many manly and patriotic ſentiments, and has been lately quoted againſt himſelf in the Houſe of Peers: on that occaſion his lordſhip did not deny that he was the author, but contented himſelf with apologizing for his errors, on account of his extreme youth.

To the former of theſe productions, his riſe in life has been falſely attributed; it was allowed by every one to be an able performance; but like many others of the ſame kind, it might have lain in the warehouſe of his bookſeller, and he himſelf remained for ever in obſcurity, had it not been for the intervention of a gentleman of the ſame county, with whom he luckily became acquainted.

Sir Edward Turner of Ambroſeden in Oxfordſhire, being of an ancient family, and poſſeſſing a large fortune, ambitioned to repreſent his native county in parliament. Having attained conſiderable influence by means of a large eſtate, a hoſpitable and noble manſion, which as well as the family houſe at Blackheath has been ſince taken down, and the materials ſold by his eldeſt ſon Sir Gregory Page Turner, Baronet, he accordingly ſtood candidate as knight of the ſhire. He was, however, ſtrenuouſly but unſucceſsfully oppoſed; for in addition to his own, he poſſeſſed the court intereſt. The ſtruggle, notwithſtanding this, was long and violent, and it ſtill forms a momorable epoch in the

hiſtory

hiſtory of conteſted elections.' But for nothing is it more remarkable, than for its being the fortunate occurrence in Mr. Jenkinſon's life, which produced all his preſent greatneſs; for the contending parties, having as uſual, called in the aid of ballads, lampoons, verſes, and ſatires, this gentleman diſtinguiſhed himſelf by a ſong in favour of Sir Edward and his party, which ſo captivated either the taſte or the gratitude of the baronet, that he introduced him to the Earl of Bute, then flouriſhing in all the plenitude of power.

It is known but to few, perhaps, that his lordſhip, who placed Mr. J. at firſt in an inferior office, wa not atall captivated with him, for it was entirely owing to the repeated ſolicitations of the member for Oxfordſhire, that he extended his further protection. After a longer trial, he became the Premier's private ſecretary, and in ſome reſpect a member of his family, participating in his friendſhip and favour, and living with him in an unreſtrained and confidential intercourſe.

Such a connexion as this could not fail to prove advantageous; and accordingly, in March, 1761, we find him appointed to be one of the Under-ſecretaries of State, a ſituation which preſuppoſes an intimate acquaintance with the ſituation of foreign affairs, and a pretty accurate knowledge with reſpect to the *arcana imperii* in general.

He, however, did not remain long in this ſtation, for after the lapſe of about fourteen months, he received the lucrative appointment of Treaſurer of the Ordnance; this he relinquiſhed in 1763, for the more confidential office of joint Secretary of the Treaſury; a ſituation for which he was admirably qualified, by his knowledge of the ſtate of parties, and the management of a Houſe of Commons, of which he himſelf had been ſome time a member, having obtained a ſeat for Cockermouth.

To

To the Rockingham adminiſtration, which ſucceeded in 1765, he was both perſonally and politically odious, and he accordingly loſt all his appointments; but in the courſe of the ſame year, he had one conferred on him by the king's mother, the late Princeſs Dowager of Wales, which no miniſter could bereave him of; this was the auditorſhip of her Royal Highneſs's accounts.

This circumſtance added to his cloſe intimacy with the diſcarded miniſter, awakened the jealouſy of the patriots; and if we are to credit their ſuſpicions, he became, in the technical language of that day, the "go-between" to the favourite, the princeſs-mother, and the throne.

When Lord Bute retired into the country in diſguſt, promiſing to relinquiſh public affairs, a great perſonage is ſaid to have conſtrued this into an *abandonment*, and to have looked out for advice elſewhere; from that moment Mr. Jenkinſon was ranked as one of the leaders of the party called the "king's friends," and his Majeſty has always ſince diſtinguiſhed him by a marked partiality to his merits.

Honours and employments now fell thick upon him. In 1766, he became a Lord of the Admiralty, and in 1777, a Lord of the Treaſury. Soon after this he obtained the * clerkſhip of the pells in Ireland, and was nominated a Lord of Trade; in 1786, he was created Lord Hawkeſbury, Baron of Hawkeſbury in the county of Glouceſter, and on May 28th, 1796, was advanced to the dignity of Earl of Liverpool; at which period he was authorized by his Majeſty to quarter the arms of that commercial city with thoſe of his own family. Theſe are great honours, but the well choſen motto which he has adopted for his eſcutcheon, proves that he conſiders himſelf as not undeſerving of them †.

* It is proper here to remark, that this was purchaſed from Mr. Fox, having conſtituted part of his patrimony.

† PALMA NON SINE PULVERE.

While

While in the Houſe of Commons, Mr. Jenkinſon ſpoke frequently, but ſince his recent elevation, ſpeaks but ſeldom; whatever he ſays, however, is liſtened to with the utmoſt attention, and the throbbings of expectation are never more feelingly experienced by the ſervants of the crown, than when he utters his wiſhes either at the council-board, or in parliament.

His lordſhip formerly experienced much odium, which indeed is always attached to the charge of favouritiſm, for when the Earl of Bute made his *apotheoſis*, his political mouth was ſuppoſed to drop on the ſhoulders of Mr. Jenkinſon. He is now, however, a peer, and a privy counſellor, and in one of thoſe ſituations the temporary, and in the other the conſtitutional adviſer of the crown; he is therefore empowered both by office and by law to deliver his opinion to his ſovereign.

It would be unjuſt to omit that the earl of Liverpool has always paid great attention to the trade of his country. It was he who drew up the treaty of commercial intercourſe with America; and he is alſo ſaid to have not only pointed out, but to have *created* the whale fiſhery in the South Seas.

Reſpecting the part he took during the American war, no one ever ſpoke more deciſively, or perhaps more intemperately than his preſent aſſociate the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and of the ſhare they both have in the management of this country, and the government of Ireland, and the preſent conteſt with France, poſterity will be able to judge more coolly, and more fairly than their own contemporaries.

MR.

MR. ABRAHAM NEWLAND.

THE ſignature of this gentleman is pretty familiar throughout every part of Great Britain, and ſeems to give the ſame currency to a *bank-note* that the names of the notorious John Doe and Richard Roe confer on a *capias*. Abraham, however, has this in his favour, that he is no fictitious perſon, made up of ſhreds of parchment, but a man, a real living man, conſtituted of fleſh, blood, bones, ſinews, marrow, and muſcles; and while the place of abode of the former gentlemen are ſo little known, even in Chancery-lane, Lincoln's-inn, Gray's-inn, Serjeant's-inn, or the Temple, that none of their inhabitants, from the judge to the ticket-porter, know where they lodge, and the Sheriffs of Middleſex, if ordered to take one of the rogues into cuſtody, muſt be under the neceſſity of returning *non eſt inventus* on the back of the writ, there is not a boy about the Royal Exchange who cannot point out the *great houſe*, where honeſt Abraham is to be ſeen ſtrutting about, with a pen behind his ear, for ſeveral hours every day!

The trade of Europe, during the middle ages, was confined almoſt excluſively to the provinces that ſkirt the Mediterranean and the Baltic. The oppreſſions every where experienced by the Jews from the Chriſtians, taught them, from cruel neceſſity, the art of transferring their riches from one nation to another; and the myſteries of banking and of bills of exchange, are ſuppoſed to have originated in Italy.

A colony of Lombards, by means of the arms of the duchy *, and the name of their nation, have given ſign-

* The three balls are the arms of Lombardy.

poſts

poſts to our pawn-brokers, and an appellation to the reſidence of our principal bankers *.

It was not, however, until nearly two centuries after this epoch, notwithſtanding the growing increaſe of our commerce, that a national bank was eſtabliſhed, and notwithſtanding David Hume, towards the latter period of his life, affected to conſider public credit as a *hardier plant* than he had at firſt imagined, yet it is a long time before mankind becomes ſo metaphyſical as to ſuppoſe that a horſe, a ſhip, an eſtate, or even a province, may be repreſented by a ſlip of flimſy paper, that would not be able to contain half the legal jargon ſufficient to conſtitute the conveyance of a houſe or a homeſted!

Indeed, this mode of reaſoning is ſupported by facts, for it was found impoſſible to create a great national bank, either under the houſe of Tudor, or the houſe of Stuart. Such a tyranny as that exerted by Henry VIII. would have driven the proprietors into beggary in the courſe of a fortnight. Charles II. who cheated the *goldſmiths*, or bankers of his day, by plundering the exchequer of the money lodged there, and whom the *Gothamites* of later times have placed in the centre of the exchange, dreſſed in a Roman habit, as if he had been the protector of trade, might have proved nearly as fatal to a banking company, by his own diſtreſſes, joined to the perpetual cravings of his courtiers and miſtreſſes, as the indiſcriminate ferocity of Henry. Nel Gwyn alone, would have put a *German ſubſidy* in requiſition!

In fine, we all know, that an eſtabliſhment of this kind failed in monarchical France, and that it has been ſeveral times ineffectually attempted under the republic. It was not until five years ſubſequent to our own revolution, that the bank of England was eſtabliſhed (in 1693), under the

* Lombard-ſtreet.

auſpices

auſpices of a prince emphatically termed "the DELIVERER;" thus proving to demonſtration, that liberty and public credit are inſeparable from each other. At Berlin, Vienna, and Madrid, we hear of *court bankers*, but a national bank is ſtill unknown.

This eſtabliſhment has combated and overcome a multitude of difficulties; for its notes at one time, in conſequence of the arts practiſed by adherents to the Houſe of Stuart, experienced a diſcount; and it is but a ſhort time ſince, that the precious metals contained within its vaults have been kept from circulation, and all money-payments ſuſpended by act of parliament. Even this, however, it has ſurvived; for the known wealth of the eſtabliſhment, the punctuality of its offices. and the admirable economy of their arrangements, have attracted and moſt deſervedly retained the confidence of the nation.

Of theſe officers, the moſt eminent, moſt noted, and perhaps alſo the moſt reſpectable, is the ſubject of theſe memoirs. Mr. Newland, born in 1729, or 1730, at the houſe of his father, a baker, in King-ſtreet, Southwark, was appointed a clerk in the bank of England, a little more than half a century ago, being nominated on the 27th February, 1748. Diſtinguiſhing himſelf by that regularity and order ſo neceſſary in money concerns, he roſe through the various gradations of ſervice, until January 19, 1775, when he attained the reſpectable and confidential office of chief caſhier to the firſt commercial company in Europe.

He is now in the 68th or 69th year of his age, and has ſomething commanding and reſpectable in his perſon. His deportment is alſo genteel, his manners are affable, and his activity and attention ſtill exhibit a pattern for the imitation of the junior clerks. His manner of tranſacting buſineſs is eminently methodical; and he is known to have undeſignedly given offence to a few of the ſubſcribers to the

the voluntary contributions, by a rigid and minute attention to the proviſos of the act of parliament, and the inſtructions of the directors. On this occaſion, the zeal of ſome of the newſpapers got the better of their diſcretion, and they made many equally ridiculous and impotent reflections on the character of a perſon, who generouſly contributed 200*l.* towards the very meaſure of which they ſuppoſed him to be the enemy.

The wealth of this gentleman has been the ſubject of much conjecture. He is certainly rich, but no ſuſpicion can attach to this circumſtance, when his opportunities, his emoluments, and his economy are conſidered. He is, however, no churl; for a ſum of money being wanted for rebuilding the church of St. *Peter-le Poor* in Broad-ſtreet, it was inſtantly advanced by him to the pariſh, at the uſual intereſt, although he could have eaſily turned it to better account.

At a certain period of life, men both attain and retain habits either of regularity or diſſipation. At fifteen minutes paſt nine o'clock in the morning, he is ſeen conſtantly at his deſk, and is never abſent from his duty until three in the afternoon. He reſides in a *ſuite* of apartments in the bank, annexed to his office, as chief caſhier; and being a bachelor, his eſtabliſhment is not large. During a period of thirty or forty years, he has not been once abſent, except during a few weeks illneſs; and therefore trips to Margate, Brighton, and the other faſhionable watering places, have neither impeded his duties, nor added to his expences.

The only relaxation he has allowed himſelf for many ſummers paſt, is a daily ride in the Iſlington ſtage-coach, to a cottage at Highbury, where he drinks tea; and after contemplating *the beauties of the country*, returns regularly in the evening to the bank.

As a private character, this gentleman ranks very high; and in his ſocial hours he is a good companion, enjoying the

the pleaſures of the table in moderation, and laughing heartily at *a good ſtory*, of which he is paſſionately fond.

It is almoſt impoſſible to contemplate the immenſe ſums of *paper-money* which literally paſs through his hands, both as chief caſhier to the bank, and ſecretary and agent to the commiſſioners appointed by act of parliament for the reduction of the national debt, without thinking of the lines of Pope:

" Bleſs'd paper credit! laſt and beſt ſupply!
" That lends Corruption higher wings to fly!
" Gold imp'd by thee can compaſs hardeſt things,
" Can pocket ſtates, can fetch or carry kings.
" A ſingle leaf ſhall waft an army o'er,
" Or ſhip off ſenates to ſome diſtant ſhore:
" A leaf like Sibyl's, ſcatter to and fro
" Our fates and fortunes as the winds ſhall blow;
" Pregnant with thouſands flits the ſcrap unſeen,
" And ſilent ſells a king or buys a queen."

A.D.

The Honourable (lately Right Honourable) CHARLES JAMES FOX.

ALL the great men of the preſent day, are either the offſpring of, or immediately deſcended from new families. The ancient nobility repoſe under the laurels of their anceſtors, not deigning to apply to any of the learned profeſſions, and deeming commerce and agriculture unworthy of their purſuits, (a few illuſtrious characters excepted), they delegate their domeſtic concerns, to the care of their upper ſervants, and not unfrequently the buſineſs of the nation is entruſted to their proxies. This, perhaps, will be the beſt apology for the multitude of plebeian ſcions, recently ingrafted on the ſtock of ancient ariſtocracy; and although it may puzzle Norrey and Clarencieux, to find them either arms or anceſtors, certain it is, that the *life blood* of nobility has been infuſed into the peerage through the conduit of democracy.

It may be alſo neceſſary to preface this article with another obſervation, of which ſome of the moſt conſpicuous characters of the preſent political drama, afford more than one pregnant inſtance; that the younger ſons of our nobility are more ſucceſsful in their political efforts than the elder *. This may be eaſily accounted for; the heir to a great fortune, and an illuſtrious title, knows not how ſoon both may devolve upon him, and when that event takes place, to what further object can his ex-

* The following remarks are made by the late Lord Orford, better known by the name of Horace Walpole.

" William Pitt, Lord Chatham, was a ſecond ſon, and became prime mi-
" niſter of England. His rival and antagoniſt was Henry Fox, Lord Holland,
" a ſecond ſon likewiſe. Lord Holland's ſecond ſon, Charles Fox, and Lord
" Chatham's ſecond ſon, William Pitt, are now rivals and antagoniſts.

pectations

pectations point? He finds that he has been born a legiſlator, and that a large fortune is entailed upon his perſon; here then are wealth and honours not only within his graſp, but actually within his power. It is otherwiſe with the junior branches, for they have in general but little in poſſeſſion, and every thing to look for; they inherit all the exquiſite reliſh for pleaſure that their ſeniors enjoy to ſatiety, and are only deficient in the means of gratification. Like the dove of Noah, they ſcarcely find a reſting place for their feet on the earth; and they are exactly in the ſituation of an invading general who has burnt his ſhips, for they muſt advance on, or periſh!

Charles James Fox, is the younger ſon of Henry, who was himſelf a younger ſon of Sir Stephen Fox, celebrated leſs for his own birth, than the circumſtance of being a father at the age of eighty, an event not incredible however, and rendered in the preſent inſtance unſuſpicious, by the decorous conduct, and acknowledged virtue of the partner of his bed. Henry entered early into public life, and ſuch was his addreſs in parliament, during the reign of George II. that he ſoon attained not only ſome of the moſt arduous and honourable, but alſo the moſt lucrative ſituations in the gift of the crown, for in the year 1754, he was appointed ſecretary at war; then ſecretary of ſtate for the Southern department, and after being *ouſted* by the great Mr. Pitt, afterwards Earl of Chatham, we find him filling the immenſely beneficial office of pay-maſter general of the forces, accumulating great wealth, and incurring the animadverſions of the firſt city of the empire. Such indeed was his conſequence, that at a time when patents of peerage were not very common, he was ennobled by his preſent Majeſty, in 1763, by the title of Baron Holland of Foxley.

His ſon, Charles James, was born January 13th, 1749, and if by his father's ſide, he claſſed among the *novi homines*,

by his mother's, his deſcent muſt be allowed to be ſplendid, for Lady Georgiana Carolina Lennox, was the daughter of the late Duke of Richmond; and as ſuch, in addition to that of the King of Sardinia, ſhe was allied to the two rival, but related families, which had ſo long conteſted for the throne of Great Britain—thoſe of Brunſwic and Stuart.

But it is not to ſuch vulgar claims as theſe, that the future hiſtorian will have recourſe; he will dwell with ardour on the early promiſe of genius, the precocious talents of the boy, the matured wiſdom of the philoſopher and the ſtateſman, and while the abilities and virtues that adorn the character of this hero, bring him forward on the canvas, theſe inefficient and involuntary pretenſions will be caſt into the ſhade, and ſcarcely be diſtinguiſhed in the back ground.

The ſecond ſon proved Lord Holland's favourite child, and at length became the darling of his old age. Perceiving in him the ſeeds of all the qualities that conſtitute greatneſs, he was at infinite pains to give ſcope to his intellectual vigour, to expand the ſhoots, and diſcloſe the bloſſoms of ſo promiſing a plant. From his earlieſt infancy he intended him for parliamentary buſineſs, and by converſing with him always as if he had been a man, he actually made him one before the uſual time. He is even ſaid to have ſubmitted his diſpatches to his peruſal, while in office, and to have complied with his corrections.

This country much about the ſame time, beheld in the perſons of two rival orators, two wonderful inſtances of ſtateſmen, retiring from the field of contention, and devoting the remainder of their lives to the education of their two younger ſons, with whom they were accuſtomed to talk about public affairs, and ſometimes to place on a table in order to hear them declaim. Occupied the better part of their days in hoſtilities againſt each other, the enmity

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of the families ſeems to have become hereditary, for it is kept up by their children, who ſtill maintain a rivalſhip, even after they had abjured the principles of their reſpective ſires.

In compliance with the future deſtination of his ſon, Lord Holland preferred a public to a private education, and accordingly ſent Charles to Weſtminſter ſchool. After diſtinguiſhing himſelf here, he removed to Eton, where Dr. Barnard, the late provoſt, found him not only uncommonly eager after amuſements, but eminent ſucceſsful in claſſical attainments. His private tutor, while a member of this celebrated inſtitution, was Dr. Newcome, afterwards Biſhop of Waterford, who, while he was frequently vexed at the diſſipation of his pupil, had occaſion at the ſame time to be highly gratified with his progreſs. Here he formed his early friendſhip with the Earl of Fitzwilliam, Lord Carliſle, his own relation the Duke of Leinſter, and ſome of the firſt men of the age. It was here alſo, that * one of them anticipated his future reputation in the following lines:

" How will my Fox, alone by ſtrength of parts,
" Shake the loud ſenate, animate the hearts
" Of fearful ſtateſmen, while, around you ſtand
" Both Peers and Commons liſt'ning your command;
" While TULLY's ſenſe its weight to you affords,
" His nervous ſweetneſs ſhall adorn your words.
" What praiſe to PITT to TOWNSHEND e'er was due,
" In future times my Fox, ſhall wait on you."

His father being, in the uncourtly language of thoſe days, " a rank Tory," Charles was ſent to finiſh his education at Oxford, where he is reported, in imitation of Penelope, to have regained by his daily toils, the labours loſt by his nocturnal aberrations.

* Lord Carliſle.

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At length he began to pant after a more unreſtrained intercourſe with ſociety, and conſequently to be diſguſted with reſtraints, and tired with the uniformity of a collegiate life. The moſt eaſy, as well as moſt likely way to rid himſelf of this, was to evince an ardent deſire to ſee the world; and as his ſtudies were now completed, his father, as uſual, indulged the wiſhes of his darling ſon. Thoſe who have been accuſtomed to ſee Mr. Fox of late years, without being acquainted with the minute particulars of his early life, will ſcarcely believe, that at this period he was one of the greateſt *beaus* in England; that he indulged in all the faſhionable elegance of attire, and vied, in point of *red-heels*, and *Paris-cut-velvet*, with the moſt ſhewy men of the times. Theſe and ſimilar qualifications were diſplayed in moſt of the courts of Europe, in the courſe of the grand tour; and if he did not return like his maternal anceſtor *, with all the vices of the continent, he at leaſt brought a wardrobe replete with all its faſhions. Nor will a ſtrict regard to hiſtorical truth permit the omiſſion of more culpable tranſgreſſions, for he is ſaid, amidſt the ardour and impetuoſity of youth, to have expended, or rather laviſhed, vaſt ſums of money in † play, and to have contracted immenſe debts. Let it be recollected, however, that he was at this very time between two and three years ſhort of that period, when the law declared him to be no longer a minor.

His enemies have carefully reminded us, that the firſt political act of his life was a violation of the conſtitution of his native country; for at the general election in 1768, he took his ſeat for Midhurſt, in Suſſex, a borough under

* Charles II.

† Dr. Biſſet, in his life of Burke, aſſerts, that his father, Lord Holland, who accompanied him to Spa, firſt excited an itch for play in his youthful mind, by allowing him five guineas a night to be ſpent in games of hazard. But as this reſts on the mere aſſertion of that gentleman, it will be difficult to give credit to the report.

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the influence of his family, when he was only nineteen years of age, and conſequently ineligible. It is with pain too, it is here reluctantly recorded, that the firſt effort of his eloquence was hoſtile to liberty*; but, beſides his extreme youth, the bent of his education, the prejudices of his family, and the wiſhes of a fond father, ought all to be taken into conſideration; and if a complete vindication does not enſue, an ingenuous mind will not be at a loſs for an apology.

During all the proceedings of the Houſe relative to the Middleſex election, Mr. F. ſtood forward as the champion of the miniſtry, and exhibited no common addreſs and activity on the occaſion. From the firſt moment of his entering the ſenate, he, indeed, diſplayed all the qualities of the orator; and Lord North, then chancellor of the exchequer, deemed his merits ſo conſiderable, that in the beginning of 1772 he nominated him to a ſeat at the admiralty board, and in the latter part of the ſame year made him, in ſome meaſure, a partner with himſelf in the management of the empire, by appointing him a lord of the treaſury.

Amidſt this ſeeming devotion to the court, there were not wanting opportunities when he ſhook off the trammels of dependence, and allowed his manly mind to take its full ſcope. Not the leaſt memorable of theſe was during the debate on the bill brought into the Houſe of Commons by Sir William Meredith, to give relief from ſubſcription to the xxxix articles of the church of England; and in the liberal ſentiments delivered on that occaſion, he has firmly and uniformly perſevered, until the preſent moment.

But the time had now arrived, when a new direction was to be given to his purſuits. The real cauſe of this event,

* His firſt ſpeech was in oppoſition to Mr. Wilkes, then confined in the King's Bench; and whatever the *motives* of that gentleman might be, diſpaſſionate men will now be ready to avow, that on this occaſion, his cauſe was not only popular but juſt.

which

which involved ſo many important conſequences, can only be gueſſed at. The ſons of the Lords Guilford and Holland, were both poſſeſſed of talents; the one, perhaps, aſpired to, the other enjoyed, the ſupreme command; and like two great men of antiquity, the firſt, perhaps, could not brook a ſuperior, nor the ſecond a rival. The enmity was firſt developed in the refuſal of a petty appointment; it encreaſed on the memorable examination of the Rev. Mr. Horne, now John H. Tooke, at the bar of the Houſe of Commons; and finally became public, in conſequence of the following billet, couched with all the energy of Spartan brevity:

"His Majeſty has thought proper to order a new com-
"miſſion of the treaſury to be made out, in which I don't
"perceive your name.

"NORTH."

"The Hon. Mr. Fox."

Conſidering this not merely as an injury, but an inſult, the enmity of Mr. Fox from that moment became public, and he at length raiſed ſuch a conſtitutional oppoſition to the adminiſtration of the noble lord who had thus treated him in a manner bordering on contempt, that he, in the end, ſubverted his power, and dragged his antagoniſt to the very edge of the ſcaffold.

In the mean time, Lord Holland died, leaving a large ſum of money, and conſiderable eſtates in the neighbourhood of Kingſgate, with the houſe there, built in imitation of Tully's Formian villa, on the coaſt of Baiæ, to his ſon Charles. He was thus in poſſeſſion of a plentiful fortune, and had he retained it, would have ſtood upon high ground in point of conſequence: for theſe bequeſts, in addition to the clerkſhip of the pells in Ireland, ſoon after ſold to Mr. Jenkinſon, now Lord Liverpool, muſt have produced

duced a nett annual income of more than 4000*l. per annum.*

After the diſſipation of this large property, a common mind would have, perhaps, bent under the calamity; his, on the contrary, ſeems to have rebounded from the fall; and inſtead of ſinking into deſpair, to have actually ſoared into celebrity, and even independence.

A new and a noble field now opened to his ambition; and he commenced his career as a patriot, on principles which Locke has upheld, and Sydney would not have bluſhed to ſupport. The members of that adminiſtration, ſuppoſed by ſome to be only the puppets of a northern peer, had rendered themſelves deteſted by the oppreſſion of Mr. Wilkes, the proſecution of the printers, the countenance given to the riots at Brentford, and the military execution in St. George's-fields.

Another event of infinitely greater magnitude now filled up the bitter draught of popular odium; and the previous oppreſſion, and threatened ſubjugation of America, arouſed a general ſpirit of reſiſtance within the mother country, and pointed the finger of public vengeance at the devoted head of the premier. Fortunately for Mr. Fox's conſiſtency, his conduct reſpecting the tranſatlantic conteſt, was ever ſtrictly uniform; and on this, as on a ſubſequent occaſion, he ſaw afar off, anticipated the impending calamities, and predicted the accumulation of misfortunes, which afterwards overwhelmed the nation.

Accordingly, in 1774, he oppoſed the introduction of the Boſton Port bill, and apologiſed for the conduct of the colonies. In his ſpeech on this occaſion, he arraigned the conduct of the miniſter in bold and energetic language, and explained the principles of the violated conſtitution, with an eloquence worthy of the cauſe. The treaſury-bench began, for the firſt time, to calculate the loſs it had ſuſtained, the oppoſition to eſtimate the ſtrength it had acquired, while

while the people rejoiced to behold, in the perſon of a youthful ſenator, whom they had been taught to conſider as an enemy, a firm, an intrepid, and an eloquent advocate, ſuch as would not have diſgraced Rome in her beſt days.

On this occaſion, he ſat on the ſame ſeat as a Saville, a Barré, a Dunning, and a Burke, with the laſt of whom he had frequently broken a lance, in the war of argument, from the oppoſite ſide of the houſe; and he has ſince candidly avowed, that from this celebrated man he firſt imbibed thoſe enlightened maxims of government, profeſſed and acted upon by the pupil, alas! when the maſter himſelf ſeemed to have abandoned them.

On the diſcuſſion of Mr. Burke's conciliatory propoſitions, in 1775, he ſtrenuouſly ſupported the liberal ſchemes of policy pointed out by that gentleman, and ſpoke and voted during the whole conteſt in direct oppoſition to that criminal ſyſtem, which it had been fondly and fallaciouſly prognoſticated was to produce the unconditional ſubmiſſion of the colonies, and lay them proſtrate at the feet of the mother country!

At length all the evils that had been foreſeen were realiſed. America, driven to deſpair, declared herſelf free and independent; monarchical France exerted her protecting arm acroſs the Atlantic; the capture of Burgoyne and Cornwallis proclaimed the triumphs of liberty; and a new conflagration lighted up in Europe, by the firebrands that had been ſcattered in another hemiſphere, waſted the ſtrength, and exhauſted the reſources of England.

At the general election in 1780, the family-borough of Midhurſt falling into other hands, and Mr. F. bluſhing, perhaps, at the idea of violating the very ſpirit and eſſence of a conſtitution, which he now began, for the firſt time, to underſtand and venerate, determined to become a candidate for the city of Weſtminſter; and he at length ſucceeded,

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after a violent conteſt, in which he baffled not only all the intereſt of the Newcaſtle family, bnt alſo all the influence of the crown, both of which were powerfully, but unſucceſsfully, exerted againſt him. Being now the repreſentative, not of a petty venal borough, but of a great city, and that too without any expence to himſelf, he appeared in parliament in a more dignified capacity, and acquired a conſiderable increaſe of weight and conſequence.

Soon after this, the miniſtry began to totter, and the political *rats* were in motion, in order to deſert the ſinking fabric. A minority, at firſt contemptible in point of numbers, but always formidable in reſpect to integrity and abilities, and which then claimed the preſent premier amongſt the moſt zealous of its partiſans, had increaſed in power and popularity. The miniſters were aſſailed within by the thunders of eloquence; without, they were overwhelmed by the clamours of an indignant people: to proceed in the war was ruin; and to recede, betrayed them into perſonal danger. At length the "noble lord in the blue ribbon" was hunted into the toils, and it was hoped by many, that public juſtice awaited his miſdeeds; for in a conteſt, in which oceans of blood had unjuſtly flowed, ſome one muſt have been criminal: and who more proper for an expiatory ſacrifice, than the oſtenſible author of ſo many calamities? Alas! had puniſhment been but inflicted on one ſingle ſolitary individual, all our ſubſequent calamities might have been averted, and the world taught to believe, that even in reſpect to *great offenders*, ſome connexion ſtill exiſted between guilt and puniſhment!

But the Rockingham party contented themſelves with the defeat of their opponents; and Mr. Fox, of courſe, was nominated to a ſeat in the cabinet, and appointed one of the ſecretaries of ſtate. The merit of this ſhort-lived adminiſtration was conſpicuous. Notwithſtanding they had ſucceeded to an empty exchequer, and a general war, they

yet

yet determined to free the people from some of their numerous grievances; and had they remained a little longer in power, infinitely more would have been effected. Contractors were excluded by act of parliament from the House of Commons; custom and excise officers were disqualified from voting at elections; the proceedings in regard to Middlesex were rescinded; while a reform-bill, rather specious, however, in name, than in reality, abolished a number of useless offices. A more generous policy was also adopted in respect to Ireland; a general peace was already meditated; an ancient ally was attempted to be soothed by an offer of negociation*; and America, which could not be restored, was at least intended to be conciliated.

In the midst of these promising appearances, the nobleman, who was the key-stone that supported the discordant materials of the political arch, died suddenly, and the council board was instantly divided by political schisms.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, who appears at this period to have had the ear of the king, and a majority in the cabinet, was immediately entrusted with the reins of administration, and Mr. Fox determining, (to make use of his own language,) "never to connive at plans in private, "which he could not publicly and consistently avow," retired from office with a numerous and respectable body of his friends.

In the mean time, the party left in possession of all the great offices, concluded a peace with America, France and Holland; but their administration proved of short duration, for a grand political confederacy had now been formed against them. This, under the name of "the coalition," soon subverted their power, and supplanted them in office. No event, in our time, has produced more obloquy than

* Mr. Fox, wishing to detach the Dutch from the coalition with the house of Bourbon, wrote a letter to M. Simolin, the Russian Minister, in which he offered to form a new treaty on the basis of that of 1674.

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the alliance between Mr. Fox and Lord North; and it is not to be concealed, that it was even then pregnant with inauſpicious reſults, and has ſince been productive of the moſt ſiniſter conſequences, as it enabled an ambitious young man to give the firſt ſtab to the conſtitution, by ſetting a vote of the Houſe of Commons, hitherto deemed inviolable, at defiance. The "India Bill," of which Mr. Burke is ſaid to have been the penman, proved the rock, on which the veſſel of the ill-paired colleagues foundered; and it is not a little memorable, that their more fortunate rivals revived this very meaſure, and carried it triumphantly through Parliament!

We now behold Mr. Fox once more, diveſted of power, reduced to ſhelter himſelf againſt accidents in the repreſentation of the * Orkney Iſles; and to contend with an unexampled perſeverance for a ſeat as member for Weſtminſter; which, after a memorable ſcrutiny, and an immenſe expenditure, he at length obtained.

He has ſince been re-elected to the ſame honourable poſt, and has ſteadily combated, as a repreſentative of the people, the influence of the crown; which, in his opinion, alone conſtitutes, and produces all their grievances. His ſubſequent conduct has been ſuch as to reſtore the current of popularity, and raiſe his name higher than before. His grand maxim, and ſurely it is immediately connected with the proſperity, and, perhaps, the exiſtence, of a manufacturing and commercial country, is the maintenance of peace. With this object in view he oppoſed a conteſt with Ruſſia, about the fortreſs of Oczakow, and a conflict with Spain concerning the peltry of Nootka Sound.

* This is rather incorrect, Mr. Fox being returned for the diſtrict of boroughs, called Tain, Dingwall, &c. &c. Even here, however, he was oppoſed by Sir John Sinclair, but the intereſt of the preſent Lord, then Sir Thomas Dundas, finally prevailed.

During

During the firſt ſtages of that melancholy event which led to the regency bill, Mr. Fox was wandering through the delightful regions of modern Italy, and ſeemed enchanted once more to tread on claſſic land. From this charming ſpot, he was called to witneſs and to participate in far different ſcenes, and finally to behold the party he oppoſed more firmly ſeated in power than before.

He has been blamed for his conduct during the impeachment of Mr. Haſtings, but he was ſupported by a majority of the Houſe of Commons on that occaſion, and by nearly all his political enemies. This meaſure was abſolutely neceſſary, in order to clear the honour of the nation, and prove to the oppreſſed inhabitants of India, that in England they would ſtill find avengers. It is not to be denied, however, that the trial was ſpun out to a moſt oppreſſive length, and that the ſuppoſed culprit at laſt ceaſed to be odious in the eyes of the people. The forms of the Houſe of Peers, as a court of juſtice, are indeed unfavourable to the diſpatch of buſineſs, but the managers ought, perhaps, either to have accelerated theſe, or to have withdrawn from a ſtruggle, when they perceived that the firſt ſtep towards puniſhment conſiſted in the oppreſſion of even a guilty individual!

No ſooner did the French nation evince a ſincere deſire to ſhake off the dominion of abſolute power, than he hailed the auſpicious dawn of riſing liberty, and deprecated the interference of this country, in a quarrel hoſtile to the principles on which ſhe had founded her proud pre-eminence. On this occaſion, he experienced the dereliction of many of his aſſociates, and among others of that man of whoſe lips he had firſt imbibed the principles of freedom. Finding, however, that he and his friends were reduced to a ſcanty minority, he has ſince retired, in a great meaſure, from public buſineſs, and left the miniſter to triumph by means of the majorities in his intereſt. Nor is this all, for

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his name has been lately ſtruck out from the liſt of privy counſellors; an event unexampled in the preſent reign, and only once exerciſed during the laſt, in reſpect to a nobleman * accuſed of cowardice and diſaffection.

As an orator, Mr. Fox is aſſuredly the firſt man of his age. He ſimplifies the moſt abſtruſe details, he analyzes the moſt complex arguments, and he reduces the moſt ſubtile poſitions to the teſt of firſt principles. Animated himſelf, he animates others. Unambitious of melodious words and ſtudied phraſes, that dwell only on the ear, the correctneſs of his reaſoning aſſails the judgment, while the irreſiſtible thunders of his eloquence at once influence and captivate the ſenſes. Struggling continually againſt the ſtream of power, he yet appears inferior to no man, and he wants only to ſtand on the "'vantage ground" of ſucceſs, to be viewed as the greateſt man of his time.

As an author, he has produced ſeveral ſpecimens of poetical compoſition, which with a due culture might have attained excellence. His verſes to Mrs. Crewe, beginning with the following lines, have often been praiſed:

"Where the lovelieſt expreſſion to features is join'd,
"By nature's moſt delicate pencil deſign'd;
"Where bluſhes unbidden, and ſmiles without art,
"Speak the ſoftneſs and feeling that dwell in the heart," &c.

His invocation "to Poverty" muſt, however, be allowed to be ſuperior, and it contains a national reflection that may offend ſome; it ought, however, to be recollected, that the Engliſh, *at that period*, were much diſguſted with the temporiſing conduct of their northern neighbours:

"O Poverty! of pale conſumptive hue,
"If thou delight'ſt to haunt me ſtill in view,
"If ſtill thy preſence muſt my ſteps attend,
"At leaſt continue, as thou art, my friend.

* Lord George Germaine.

"When

" When *Scotch example bids me be unjuſt*,
" Falſe to my word, unfaithful to my truſt,
" Bid me the baneful error quickly ſee,
" And ſhun the world to find repoſe with thee.
" When vice to wealth would turn my partial eye,
" Or int'reſt ſhutting ear to ſorrow's cry;
" Or courtiers' cuſtom would my reaſon bend,
" My foe to flatter, or deſert my friend;
" Oppoſe, kind Poverty, thy temper'd ſhield,
" And bear me off unvanquiſh'd from the field.
" If giddy Fortune e'er return again,
" With all her idle, reſtleſs, wanton train,
" Her magic glaſs ſhould falſe Ambition hold,
" Or Av'rice bid me put my truſt in gold;
" To my relief, then, virtuous goddeſs, haſte,
" And with thee bring thy daughters ever chaſte,
" Health! Liberty! and Wiſdom! ſiſters bright,
" Whoſe charms can make the worſt condition light,
" Beneath the hardeſt fate the mind can cheer,
" Can heal affliction and diſarm deſpair;
" In chains, in torments, pleaſure can bequeath,
" And dreſs in ſmiles the tyrant hour of death!"

His letter * " To the worthy and independent Electors of the City and Liberty of Weſtminſter," is his only avowed proſe publication, and this has experienced a nearly unexampled ſale, having run through twelve or thirteen large editions. On this occaſion, he makes a manly appeal to his conſtituents; and in a clear and perſpicuous ſtyle deprecates the idea of foreign alliances, and inſiſts on the neceſſity of acknowledging the French Republic as an independent ſtate. While alluding to the ridiculous project of ſubjugating that power, by external force, he expreſſes himſelf thus:

" The conqueſt of France!!! O! calumniated cruſa-
" ders, how rational and moderate were your projects!
" O! much-injured Lewis XIV, upon what ſlight grounds
" have you been accuſed of reſtleſs and inordinate ambi-
" tion! O! tame and feeble Cervantes, with what a

* Publiſhed in 1793.

" timid

" timid pencil and faint colours have you painted the por-
" trait of a diſordered imagination !"

Of the *private* life of this great orator, the public may be anxious to have a few authentic particulars. Mr. Fox no longer reſides any part of the year in town, having diſpoſed of his houſe in South-ſtreet; when he viſits London, which is but ſeldom, he ſtays ſometimes at the houſe of his old friend General Fitzpatrick, and ſometimes at a hotel in the neighbourhood of New Bond-ſtreet. Except during the ſhooting ſeaſon, when he viſits Mr. Coke, &c. in Norfolk, he lives chiefly at St. Ann's-hill, near Chertſey. There he ſuperintends the cultivation of his grounds, enjoys the pleaſure of horticulture, and amuſes himſelf in forming his ſhrubberies. To " the roſe," the theme of the Perſian poets, he ſeems particularly attached; for he has a parterre near his houſe, in which there are no leſs than thirty different ſpecies. He alſo poſſeſſes a great taſte for botany; and has been at infinite pains to render himſelf maſter of the Linnæn ſyſtem.

In general, he riſes about ſeven o'clock, mounts his horſe inſtantly, rides to the river, and plunges into the Thames. He then returns to breakfaſt, which is over before ten. The forenoon is, for the moſt part, dedicated to his books; and is accordingly ſpent in his ſtudy. Before dinner, he takes a walk or ride, around the neighbouring village, ſits down to table a little after three o'clock, and lives well, and like a gentleman, without any appearance, however, of luxury or oſtentation. After indulging in a few glaſſes of port or ſherry, he retires with his gueſts about ſix, to the tea-room, which preſents a moſt delightful proſpect in the ſummer ſeaſon; and after a couple of diſhes of coffee, a glaſs of *liqueur de Martinique* is handed round to the company.

The evenings are generally dedicated to domeſtic entertainments. Sometimes he reads, and then generally aloud; at other times he plays at ſome manly game on the lawn, or liſtens to the muſic of a favourite lady while fingering

the *piano-forte*, or the pedal harp. The evening is not unfrequently ſpent at the HOLLAND, a charming octagon building, dedicated to his nephew, Henry, Lord Holland, and inſcribed to him. From this building is to be ſeen a moſt luxuriant view of the ſurrounding country; but the eye is unwilling to roam abroad, as it is ornamented with beautiful paintings by the hand of Mrs. Armſtead.

While the hirelings of miniſtry are repreſenting him as plotting againſt the ſtate, he is, moſt probably, peruſing Homer in the original language; and the immortal bard, or the "conſpirator," is, perhaps, dandling a child in his arms, or, peradventure, if it be in the ſummer ſeaſon, playing at trap-ball on the graſs!

In perſon Mr. Fox is ſomewhat above the middle ſize, and, of late years, is rather inclined to be fat. His features which are ſtrongly marked, exhibit an appearance of ſhrewdneſs and ability; and his eye in the midſt of debate, or the animation of converſe, flaſhes with fire.

No portrait has been oftener painted, and he muſt be a very inaccurate artiſt, indeed, who cannot hit off the ſaturnine complexion, the piercing look, and the arch and buſhy eye-brow of the great commoner. The chiſſel, as well as the pencil, has been employed in giving durability to his reſemblance, for a great number of buſts have been executed, of late years, in marble, by * Nollekens; and one in *terra cotta* has ſtill more recently been finiſhed by Merchant, as a model for a gem.

The following dedication to Mr. Fox, is by one of the greateſt ſcholars of the age:

CAROLO JACOBO FOX.

Quòd veram illam & abſolutam eloquentiam
non modò coluerit, ſed cultam, qua potuit,

* No leſs than thirty-two have been finiſhed by this ſculptor, at ſixty guineas each, for the Empreſs of Ruſſia, the Dukes of Devonſhire and Portland, Lord Albemarle, &c. &c. &c.

ad

ad Salutem Patriæ Dignitatemque tuendam contulerit;
Quòd in ſuſcipiendis ſive amicitiis, ſive inimicitiis,
has ſemper voluerit Mortales
habere, illas Sempiternas;
Quòd Mente ſolida invictaque permanſerit in propoſito,
atque improborum ſpreverit minas;
Quòd in Cauſa, quæ maxime popularis eſſe debuiſſet,
Non populariter ille quidem,
ut alii ficte et fallaciter populares,
ſed ſtrenue ac fortiter verſatus ſit;
Quòd denique, in fœdiſſimo illo
Optimi prudentiſſimique Senatus naufragio,
Id demum, imò id ſolum,
quod turpe eſſet,
Miſerum exiſtimârit, atque adeò cum bonis
Libere πολιτευτέον ſtatuerit,
potius quam periculoſe & ſimulate & cupide
inter malos,
Librum huncce ea, qua par eſt, Obſervantia.

D. D. D.
A. E. A. O.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE WILLIAM PITT,

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, &c. &c.

IT is, at all times, a difficult, delicate, and ſometimes a dangerous taſk, to attempt the delineation of the life and character of a miniſter of ſtate. The paſſions of the generality of men are too much agitated to attend to cool diſcuſſion while they contemplate the immediate political ſituation of their country, more eſpecially in a period like the preſent, ſo replete with important and ſingular events.

The ſubject of this article is, in many points of view, the moſt conſpicuous prime miniſter which modern Europe has ever beheld, whether he be conſidered in reſpect to his very ſplendid talents, his wonderful ſucceſs in life, or the ſingular events which have occurred during his adminiſtration. His hiſtory will include the annals of the moſt remarkable epoch in modern times; and he will be juſtly deemed, by future ages, the lever which gave motion to the proceedings of all the cabinets of Europe. A large ſhare of the good or evil which may reſult, will be ſolely aſcribed to his councils. In ſhort, he may be conſidered as uniting the ſtriking qualities of the Cecils, the Walſinghams, the Richlieus, the Mazarines, the Straffords, the Louvois, the Alberonies, and the Walpoles; to none of theſe is he inferior in abilities, in eloquence, or in the various arts and conſummate policy of the courtier and the ſtateſman.

This country never had a miniſter of whom ſuch different opinions have been entertained, as of the preſent, and indeed no former one was ever placed in ſuch critical circum-

circumſtances. The hiſtory of this illuſtrious ſtateſman, compriſing, as it neceſſarily muſt, a review of his politica life, will be reſorted to, at ſome future period, as one of the moſt intereſting and inſtructive performances that can occupy the attention of mankind.

William Pitt, the illuſtrious Earl of Chatham, had two ſons, one of whom, the preſent able miniſter, is the youngeſt. He was born May 8, 1759, at a time when his father's glory was at its zenith; and when, in conſequence of the wiſdom and integrity of his councils, and the vigour and promptitude of his meaſures, Britiſh valour reigned triumphant in every part of the globe.

On the acceſſion of his preſent majeſty, that great ſtateſman, in conſequence of new arrangements, chiefly occaſioned by the riſing influence of the Earl of Bute, retired from the ſtation which he had ſo honourably filled; and conſigned his elder ſon to the inſtructions of able tutors, he devoted his own time to the education of WILLIAM, on a ſtrong and well-founded perſuaſion (as he was in the habit of ſaying) that "he would one day encreaſe "the glory of the name of PITT."

His claſſical knowledge Mr. Pitt acquired under the care of a private tutor at Burton Pynſent, the ſeat of his father; and the Earl took great pleaſure in teaching him, while ſtill a youth, to argue with logical preciſion, and ſpeak with elegance and force. He judiciouſly accuſtomed him to the practice of making accurate enquiries reſpecting every ſubject that caught his attention, and taught him not to remain ſatisfied with a ſuperficial obſervation of appearances.

This leſſon brought him into an early practice of cool and patient inveſtigation, rarely, if ever acquired, by thoſe who prefer the trappings of eloquence, and the ſhowy ornaments of language, to plain ſober diction, and pertinent matter of fact.

Under

Under ſuch an able paternal tutor, an acute mind could not fail to imbibe a ſtore of ſound practical knowledge. The earl, with his uſual perſpicuity, fancied he ſaw in his ſon a future ſtateſman, and in all probability, a future miniſter of his country alſo. It was a laudable ambition in a father, and to gratify it he ſpared no exertions; directing his whole attention to the great object of rendering his ſon accompliſhed in all things requiſite to form a public character, and to preſerve the luſtre already attached to the aame of WILLIAM PITT.

He, himſelf, frequently entered into forced diſputations with him, and encouraged him to argue with others, upon ſubjects far above what could be expected from his years. In the management of theſe arguments, his father would never ceaſe to preſs him with difficulties; nor would he permit him to ſtop, till the ſubject of contention was completely exhauſted. By being inured to this method, the ſon acquired that quality which is of the firſt conſequence in public life—a ſufficient degree of firmneſs, and preſence of mind, as well as a ready delivery, in which he was wonderfully aided by nature.

That he might have all the benefits of education which this country could give him, and, at the ſome time, by a rapid progreſs through the neceſſary ſtudies, qualify himſelf early for the ſenate, he was taken at between fourteen and fifteen years of age from his father's roof, and from the care of a very enlightened and worthy clergyman, Mr. (now Dr.) Wilſon, and ſent to Pembroke college, Cambridge, where he was admitted under the tuition of Meſſrs. Turner and Prettyman, both very able and well qualified tutors, and willing to ſecond, to the utmoſt of their power, the intentions of his father. Mr. Prettyman was alſo his private tutor, and a better choice could not have been made, as far as claſſical and mathematical knowledge were concerned. For eloquence he could not look

up

up to either of his tutors; but his father's example and precepts required no farther aſſiſtance. In Cambridge he was a model to the young nobility and fellow-commoners; and it was not doubted that if the privileges of his rank had not exempted him from the uſual exerciſes for the bachelor's degree, he would have been found among the firſt competitors for academical honours. On his admiſſion, according to cuſtom, to his maſter's degree, the public orator found it needleſs to ſearch into his genealogy, or even to dwell much on the virtues of his father, the eyes of the univerſity were fixed on the youth; the enraptured audience aſſented to every encomium, and each breaſt was filled with the livelieſt preſentiments of future greatneſs. To the honour of Mr. Pitt it muſt be ſpoken, that he has been duly ſenſible of the care taken of his riſing years. His inſtructors have received repeated marks of his acknowledgment. Dr. Wilſon, his firſt inſtructor, is now canon of Windſor; and one of his ſons has a lucrative ſinecure in Jamaica. The worthy Dr. Turner is dean of Norwich; Dr. Prettyman has received the Biſhopric of Lincoln, and the Deanery of St. Paul's, and will, doubtleſs, not be overlooked in future promotions.

He was afterwards entered a ſtudent at Lincoln's Inn; and made ſo rapid a progreſs in his legal ſtudies, as to be ſoon called to the bar, with every proſpect of great ſucceſs.

We are informed, that he once or twice went upon the Weſtern circuit, and appeared as junior counſel in ſeveral cauſes. He was, however, deſtined to fill a more important ſtation in the government of his country, than is uſually to be obtained through the channel of the law.

At the general election, 1780, we find him nominated by ſome of the moſt reſpectable perſons in Cambridge as a candidate to repreſent that univerſity; but notwithſtanding his high character in the univerſity, he found very few

to

to fecond his pretenſions. In the following year, however, he was returned for the borough of Appleby, by the intereſt of Sir James Lowther. On taking his ſeat in the Houſe of Commons, he enliſted himſelf on the ſide of the party which had conſtantly oppoſed the miniſter, Lord North, and the American war, and which regarded him with a degree of veneration; recogniſing in his perſon the genius of his illuſtrious father revived and acting, as it were, in him.

One of his firſt acts, as a member of the Houſe of Commons, was extremely well calculated to increaſe his popularity; this was his motion for a committee of the Houſe, to conſult upon the moſt effectual means to accompliſh a more equal repreſentation of the people in parliament. His propoſitions were, indeed, rejected; but he continued to repeat and renew them from time to time; and thus kept up the public attention to this great object, and made it more generally canvaſſed than it ever had been before.

On the death of the great Marquis of Rockingham, the old Whig party fell into a ſtate of diſunion, nearly bordering upon diſſolution. A new arrangement took place ſoon after, and Lord Shelburne became the able firſt Lord of the Treaſury, carrying along with him Mr. Pitt, who aſtoniſhed the country, and, indeed, all Europe, by the phenomenon of a chancellor of the Exchequer at the age of *twenty-three!*

His popularity at this period effectually ſcreened him from every charge which his youth and inexperience might juſtly have warranted, and which were ſtrongly urged againſt him by the adverſe faction. The ſituation of the country was extremely critical. The American war had become generally odious; and all hearts panted for a ceſſation of hoſtilities. This deſirable object was, therefore, the firſt conſideration with the new miniſtry.

The

The combined powers had recently experienced great humiliations, and conſequently the opportunity was not to be loſt. A general peace accordingly took place; but the terms of it were reprobated by a conſiderable part of the nation. On this occaſion, Mr. Pitt delivered in his place a moſt maſterly defence of himſelf and his colleagues, which produced a correſponding, though not ſucceſsful effect. The adminiſtration, of which he was the moſt diſtinguiſhed member, was therefore ſhort lived. On its diſſolution, the young ſtateſman withdrew into retirement, and afterwards went abroad for ſome time, viſiting Italy, and ſeveral of the German courts.

On the coalition's taking place, Mr. Mansfield's ſeat for the univerſity became vacant, by accepting the office of ſolicitor-general, and Mr. Pitt determined to oppoſe him; with this view he went down to Cambridge; but was treated with contempt, by the heads and ſenior members. One threw the door almoſt in his face, and wondered at the impudence of the young man, thus to come down and diſturb the peace of the univerſity! From ſuch a ſcene he retired in a few days, in diſguſt; though the aſſurances of ſupport from ſeveral independent maſters of arts, kept alive the few hopes remaining in his breaſt, of future ſucceſs. A few months, however, changed the ſcene; the coalition miniſtry was thrown out, he came down in triumph to the univerſity, was received with open arms, carried his election with a conſiderable majority, and was able, alſo, by his influence, to make Lord Euſton his colleague. For a time the tergiverſation of the ſenate was a theme of converſation;—the moſt notorious of the gown who changed their ſides, were marked by the contempt of the unſucceſsful, but laughed at their own diſgrace, under the rewards of the ſucceſsful candidates; mitres and ſtalls, and livings, became the portion of the Cambridge men. But few of the independent maſters who would

have

have ſupported him when out of power, and did ſupport him on his acceſſion to the miniſtry, were to be found among his ſupporters at the next election; they conſidered him to have given up thoſe principles of liberty, and that zeal for the reform of parliament, which had, with his great talents, entitled him to their notice.

An occaſion, ſuddenly offered, in 1784, for bringing Mr. Pitt forward once more on the great theatre of politics, as a candidate for fame and power. The Britiſh dominions in India had long been in an alarming ſituation, and it was generally admitted that an immediate remedy was indiſpenſably neceſſary to preſerve them. With this view, Mr. Fox, then Secretary of State, formed, digeſted, and brought forward his India bill, which he carried through its ſeveral ſtages with a high hand.

The coalition miniſtry, as compoſed of ſuch an heterogeneous mixture, notwithſtanding their majority in the Houſe of Commons, were generally obnoxious to the nation, and this bill was particularly offenſive to the great body whom it immediately affected. Lord North and his new allies were accordingly diſmiſſed, and Mr. Pitt became Premier, aſſiſted by the advice of Lord Thurlow, as keeper of the great ſeal—arrangements which, at that time, were however, only conſidered as temporary.

He then aſtoniſhed the commercial and political world, by his own India bill! He had, however, the mortification to find the majority of the Houſe of Commons againſt him; and he was placed in the peculiar ſituation of a miniſter acting with a ſmall minority, and that too in oppoſition to the ſtrongeſt confluence of talents ever combined againſt any adminiſtration. He, however, remained firm in his ſeat amidſt a general confuſion; and though the Houſe had petitioned his majeſty to diſmiſs his miniſters, our young premier ventured to inform the repreſentatives of the nation that their petition could not be complied with!

This

This ſtruggle between the commons and the crown was of the greateſt importance; but the people at large were of opinion that the former encroached upon the regal prerogatives; and on the queſtion being in a manner thrown into their hands by a diſſolution of parliament, a new one was returned, which changed the majority, and preſerved the miniſter in a poſt which he has maintained ever ſince!

Various public meaſures have, of courſe, during a period of fourteen years, been brought forward by this active miniſter; to notice which, would far exceed the bounds of a memoir ſo limited in its object as the preſent. They are incorporated into the hiſtory of his country, and familiarly recollected by his contemporaries.

The commercial treaty with France was a bold ſcheme, and evinced deep political and mercantile knowledge. But the moſt critical circumſtance in the annals of Mr. Pitt's adminiſtration, and that on which his biographer ſhould dwell the moſt, is the period when the regal powers were, in a manner, unhappily ſuſpended, and all the wiſdom of the legiſlature was required to form a regency. It was a criſis not only novel, but of extreme magnitude, as likely to become the precedent for future times; no ſuch incident having till then occurred in the annals of our hiſtory.

Some ſtateſmen would have worſhipped the riſing ſun. Mr. Pitt and his colleagues, however, purſued a different courſe, and thereby added greatly to their popularity, and effectually ſecured themſelves in power.

If, on ſome occaſions, he has courted the favour of the people, he certainly has not always ſacrificed at their ſhrine. He appears, indeed, to have a proper conception of the value in which popular eſteem is to be held, but to be ſenſible that it ought not to influence the conduct of a legiſlator, when it is evidently repugnant to the true intereſts of the country.

When

When the revolution took place in France, the ſituation of the prime miniſter of this kingdom became once more extremely critical. Perhaps it was fortunate for the country, that the adminiſtration at that time enjoyed the good opinion of both king and people; as violent contentions of party-ſpirit, at ſuch a juncture, might have led to conſequences very injurious to the happy conſtitutional government of Great Britain.

The ſituation of Europe has aſſumed a new face, ſince the monarchy of France was ſhaken from its ancient baſis. A war has enſued totally different from all former wars. In judging, therefore, of the merits of thoſe who are concerned in managing the affairs of the nation, it is impoſſible to have recourſe either to precedents, or to old political principles. A new mode of action, a new ſcheme of politics was to be deviſed, and adapted to the exiſting circumſtances.

If any merit be due to boldneſs of invention, to vigour of execution, to wide extenſion of plans, and to firmneſs and perſeverance of conduct, certainly the preſent adminiſtration has an undoubted claim to public gratitude.

An attention to commerce has greatly diſtinguiſhed Mr. Pitt's adminiſtration, particularly during the preſent conteſt. Perhaps there is no man in the kingdom better acquainted with the principles of trade than he is. The oldeſt and moſt experienced merchants have been aſtoniſhed at his readineſs in converſing with them upon ſubjects which they thought themſelves excluſively maſters of. Many who have waited upon him in full confidence that they ſhould communicate ſome new and important information upon matters of trade, have, to their great ſurprize, found him minutely and intimately acquainted with all thoſe points to which they conceived he was a ſtranger. By the cloſe attention which he has uniformly paid to the mercantile intereſts, he has certainly ſecured to himſelf an excluſive baſis of ſupport,

which

which has enabled him not only to reſiſt a moſt vigorous oppoſition, but to carry into effect financial meaſures that, till his time, were deemed impracticable.

Some men have charged him with political apoſtacy, on the ground of his having abandoned, if not oppoſed, the project of a parliamentary reform. If he really conſiders ſuch a reform as no longer neceſſary, it will be difficult to exonerate him from this heavy accuſation. But there certainly is a great difference between abſolute apoſtacy, and an occaſional ceſſation from a particular ſyſtem of opinions or line of conduct. It does not follow that Mr. Pitt is an enemy to neceſſary reform, becauſe he conſiders the exiſting circumſtances of the country as too critical to admit the trial of the experiment.

As a public ſpeaker, Mr. Pitt is not to be characteriſed by overſtrained parallels drawn from the orators of antiquity. He poſſeſſes more of the elegance and grace of Cicero, than of the fire of Demoſthenes. He is, however, more of the acute logician, than of the perſuaſive rhetorician. His voice, though clear and powerful, poſſeſſes not the modulations that charm the ear, and ſteal upon the heart; moreover, he ſeems incapable of producing any grand effect upon the paſſions of his auditors, and he is at times extremely careleſs in his choice of expreſſions. His language is generally good, but he ſometimes deſcends into vulgarity and incorrectneſs. All his deficiencies, however, are more than counterbalanced by a concluſive and forcible method of reaſoning, by a facility of ſtating his arguments, which makes them not only conceivable to the meaneſt underſtanding, but gives them frequently a preciſion and vigour which may be pronounced irreſiſtible.

The Premier alſo poſſeſſes an advantage of ineſtimable value, in a miniſter of ſtate, namely, a great command over his temper, added to much coolneſs, during the ardour of debate.

This

This enables him to reply clearly and particularly to the arguments of his opponents, and to defend his own cauſe by often turning their own weapons upon themſelves. Though he is confident, and frequently, it muſt be confeſſed, even arrogant in his ſpeeches, which ſometimes provokes the oppoſition orators to uſe harſh language, yet he ſeldom loſes his own temper, or retorts in anger.

His action is not ſtrictly graceful, which is in ſome meaſure owing to the diſadvantage of an exterior, which however dignified, is yet not amiably winning, for he is very tall, and deficient in *en bon point*. His countenance is alſo ſevere and forbidding, expreſſive indeed (in the language of phyſiognomiſts) of a capacious mind, and inflexible reſolution; but alſo of a too lofty and perhaps unbending ſpirit.

Mr. Pitt forms in all points a direct contraſt to his great political opponent: and it is certainly a curious circumſtance, that two ſuch extraordinary men ſhould be as oppoſite in their private characters as in their public career. In debate Mr. Fox is vehement, Mr. Pitt cool. The one is frank and open, the other cloſe and reſerved. The urbanity of the ex-miniſter gains him friends among all parties, the *hauteur* and *ſang froid* of the premier does not conciliate even his aſſociates. Mr. Pitt is the ſame guarded and unbending politician in his ſocial hours that he is in the Houſe of Commons.

In private life, his ſole pleaſure are of an official and convivial nature.

Ambition is the ruling and maſter-paſſion of his ſoul, before which every other ſinks into inſignificance: at the ſhrine of this goddeſs, and at that of Bacchus, he is ſuppoſed alone to pay his devotions. That his health and talents may not ſuffer by the latter, and that his country may proſper under the influence of the former, is the earneſt wiſh of the writer of this article.

J. W.

ERASMUS

ERASMUS DARWIN, M.D. F.R.S.

IS the ſon of a gentleman of landed property, near Newark-upon-Trent. From a country ſchool he was transferred to the univerſity, and entered at St. John's, Cambridge, where, being intended for the practice of medicine, he took the degree of M.B. in 1755; and in his theſis defended the opinion that the motion of the heart and arteries are produced by the immediate *ſtimulus* of the blood.

On the death of the preſent king's father, when all the men of talents in the nation bewailed the loſs of a prince whom they had fondly conſidered as a ſecond Mæcenas, he contributed to the Cambridge collection of odes and elegies: but his verſes on that occaſion do not ſeem to have argued any great chance for celebrity, as they were undiſtinguiſhed from the exertions of far inferior men, and afforded no great promiſe of future excellence.

After an education admirably adapted to his intended profeſſion, and a previous degree of M.D. Dr. Darwin determined to practiſe, and finding the buſineſs of the capital, entirely monopolized by a few men of celebrity, brought into notice by the zeal of friends, family connexion, and the recommendation and intereſt of the great, he determined to ſettle in the country. Luckily for the city of Litchfield, that place was pitched upon for the ſcene of his labours, and he reſided there for a great number of years. If he ſtill retained a taſte for poetry, it was either carefully ſuppreſſed, or the favours of the muſe concealed; he, however, diſtinguiſhed himſelf as a philoſopher and phyſician, for as far back as 1758, he publiſhed in vol. 50 of the Philoſophical

Philoſophical Tranſactions, " An Attempt to confute the Opinion of Henry Earle, concerning the Aſcent of Vapour; and " An Account of the Cure of a periodical Hæmopte, by keeping the patient awake." This was followed by " Experiments on Animal fluids in the exhauſted receiver."

In the mean time, he had bred his ſon Charles, a promiſing young man, to his own profeſſion, and ſent him to Edinburgh, at that time, as now, the great European ſchool of phyſic, There he was unfortunately carried off by a fever, at the very time he was enquiring into the nature and cure of diſeaſes, before he had attained the 20th year of his age! To the ſorrowing father was left the mournful taſk of being the editor of his poſthumous work; and he accordingly publiſhed in 1780, " Experiments eſtabliſhing a Criterion between Mucilaginous and Purulent Matter: And an Account of the Retrograde Motions of the Abſorbent Veſſels of Animal Bodies in ſome diſeaſes."

In 1782, the Botanical ſociety of Lichfield publiſhed Linnæus's " Syſtem of Vegetables," which is thought to have been chiefly the production of Dr. Darwin, one of its two principal members.

Early in 1789, Dr. Darwin, enliſted again by ſcience in the train of the Muſes, burſt forth like a comet in the hemiſphere of poetry, by the publication of the " Botanical Garden;" Part II.* of which, containing " the Loves of the Plants," then made its firſt appearance. The idea of the ſexual ſyſtem had long before been elucidated by the great Swediſh naturaliſt; and it indeed ſeems to have been coeval with, and moſt probably, long anterior to, Claudian:

* Four editions of this volume, and three of the ſecond have been already publiſhed.

" Vivunt

" Vivunt in Venerem frondes; nemus omne per altum,
" Felix arbor amat; nutant ad mutua Palmæ
" Fædera, populeo ſuſpiret Populus ictu,
" Et Platani Platanis, Alnoque affibelat Alnus."

The poem conſiſts of four cantos; the three firſt of which are followed by a dialogue, and the preface contains a ſummary of the Linnæan arrangement. The intention of this part of the work is to render an attachment to Botanical ſtudies at once more common and more delightful.

" Botanic Muse! who, in his latter age,
" Led by your airy hand the Swediſh ſage,
" Bade his keen eye your ſecret haunts explore,
" On dewy dell, high wood, and ſounding ſhore;
" Say on each leaf, how tiny Graces dwell;
" How laugh the Pleaſures in a bloſſom's bell;
" How inſect loves ariſe on cobweb wings,
" Aim their light ſhafts, and point their little ſtings."

The ſcientific turn of the notes, and the agreeable medium of the poetry,* excited an uncommon degree of curioſity for the publication of Part I. containing " the Economy of Vegetation," which, on account of ſome experiments, was delayed until 1791. On this occaſion he recurs to Lucretius:

" It Ver, et Venus; et Veneris prænuncius ante
" Pennatus Graditur Zephyrus Veſtigia prôpter,
" Flora quibus mater, præſpergens ante Viai
" Cuncta coloribus egregiis et odoribus opplet."

* Some of tie lines are peculiarly expreſſive, ſuch as

" On her fair boſom ſits the Demon ape
" Erect, and balances his bloated ſhape;
" *Rolls in their marble orbs his gorgon-eyes,*
" *And drinks with leathern ears her tender cries.*"

The " vampire wings" of the Ague, " the young wonder," with which the cherubs, while riding on their little reeds,

" ——————touch the ſliding ſnail
" *Admire his eye-tipped horns, and painted mail,*" &c.

are expreſſions peculiarly felicitous.

At the beginning of Canto I. the genius of the place, the ſcenery of which is borrowed from a garden, about a mile from Lichfield, where a cold bath was erected by Sir John Floyer, ſolicits the appearance of the goddeſs who preſides over botany, who, on her deſcent, is received by Spring and the Elements. Then follows the exploſion of chaos, the revolution of the ſtars, the appearance of lightning, the rain-bow, luminous flowers, the glow-worm, fire-fly, electric-eel, meduſa, ſteam-engine, &c.

The following lines deſerve great praiſe; and not the leaſt merit is, that poſterior diſcoveries ſeem to be faſt realizing the predictions of the poet:

" Soon ſhall thy arm, UNCONQUER'D STEAM! afar
" Drag the ſlow barge, or drive the rapid car;
" Or on wide-waving wings, expanded bear
" Thy flying chariot through the fields of air.
" ———Fair crews triumphant leaning from above,
" Shall wave their flutt'ring 'kerchiefs as they move;
" Or warrior-bands alarm the gaping crowd,
" And armies ſhrink beneath the ſhadowy cloud.
" So mighty Hercules o'er many a clime
" Wav'd his huge mace in Virtue's cauſe ſublime,
" Unmeaſur'd ſtrength with early art combin'd,
" Aw'd, ſerv'd, protected, and amaz'd mankind.——
" Firſt," &c.

The ſecond Canto commences with an addreſs to the Gnomes. We then find the earth thrown from a volcano of the ſun; its atmoſphere, ocean, and journey through the zodiac are deſcribed. We then hear of primeval iſlands, paradiſe, or the golden age; the firſt great earthquakes, continents raiſed from the ſea, &c.

The third, and laſt Canto, commences with an addreſs to the Nymphs; next follows the theory of rain, and of tides; an account of marine animals, rivers, boiling fountains in Iceland, and warm medicinal ſprings, ſuch as Buxton, &c. &c.

It

It is eaſy to perceive, in this very intereſting performance, that Dr. Darwin has had recourſe to the Roſicrucian machinery, in his "Botanic Garden," for the ſame reaſon that Pope adopted it, in his celebrated poem of "the Rape of the Lock." In the formation of the planets, he employs the doctrines of Buffon; in his natural hiſtory, he bends at the ſhrine of the Swede, while he follows the new doctrines reſpecting air, from the Prieſtleian and Lavoiſerian ſyſtems.

A deep attention to botany, and a thorough conviction of the advantages ariſing from ſyſtem, induced Dr. Darwin to turn his mind towards the improvement of his own profeſſion, and to become, as it were, the Linnæus of Medicine. Impreſſed with this novel idea, in the beginning of 1794 he publiſhed the firſt volume of his "Zoonomia, or the Laws of Organic Life," in which, leaving his former work in poſſeſſion of the vegetable world, he propoſes "to reduce the facts belonging to animal life into claſſes, "orders, genera, and ſpecies; and by comparing them "with each other, to unravel the theory of diſeaſes."

Much preliminary matter is given in ſeparate ſections, reſpecting the immediate organs of ſenſe; and an able theory of ideas follows. We next meet with the laws of animal *cauſation*, and an exemplification of the tranſitions of irritative into ſenſative, and of ſenſative into voluntary motions; on this occaſion, we find a diſſertation on *unperceived ideas*, and learn, "that all our perceptions are ideas "excited by irritation, and ſucceeded by ſenſation." Reſpecting the doctrines of *ſtimulus* and *exertion*, the author is a great advocate for the ſyſtem of the late unfortunate Dr. Brown, which he ably and amply elucidates and explains.

Proceeding in an aſcending ratio, he conſiders ſleep and revery, giddineſs and drunkenneſs; with an account of the diſeaſes ariſing from the laſt of theſe, &c. &c.

In 1796, vol. II. made its appearance; and as the former may be conſidered as ſtrictly theoretical, this contains a practical application of the principles, and is divided into two grand ſections: containing, firſt, the nature and cure of particular diſeaſes; and, ſecondly, the operation of medicines.

Of this work, it has been ſaid by a celebrated profeſſor of the medical art, that the "Zoonomia bids fair to do "for phyſic, what the Principia of Sir Iſaac Newton has "done for natural philoſophy:" after this, it would be folly to add our mite of praiſe.

Dr. Darwin now reſides at Derby, where he enjoys an extenſive practice, and univerſal eſteem. While his ample and capacious mind graſps the grandeſt operations of nature, he can yet condeſcend to comparatively infinite ſubjects, provided they be connected with human happineſs. A proof of this exiſts in the attention lately paid by him to a ſubject in which the deareſt intereſts of ſociety are involved—the education of females—or the beſt means of making affectionate daughters, good wives, and tender mothers!

SIR

SIR GEORGE LEONARD STAUNTON, Bart.

IS the ſon of a gentleman, of ſmall fortune, in the kingdom of Ireland, and was ſent by his parents, early in life, to ſtudy medicine at Montpelier, where he took the degree of M.D. After he had finiſhed his ſtudies, he repaired to London, where he employed himſelf in tranſlating ſome medical eſſays, written by Dr. Storck of Vienna; and, with wonderful facility in the knowledge of different languages, he at the ſame time drew up in French, for the *Journal Etranger*, a compariſon between the literature of England and France.

About the year 1762, Dr. Staunton embarked for the Weſt Indies, as we find from a farewel letter written to him by the late Dr. Johnſon, given by Mr. Boſwell, in his life of that great man. This letter is replete with excellent advice, and does equal credit to the writer and the perſon to whom it is addreſſed.

Dr. S. reſided for ſome years in the Weſt Indies, where he acquired a genteel addition to his fortune by the practice of phyſic; purchaſed an eſtate in Grenada, which he cultivated; and had the good fortune to obtain the friendſhip of the preſent Lord Macartney, governor of that iſland, to whom he acted as ſecretary, and continued in that capacity until the capture of it by the French, when they both embarked for Europe. Having ſtudied the law, Sir George, while at Grenada, ſerved the office of Attorney General of the iſland.

Soon after Lord Macartney's arrival in England, he was appointed governor of Madraſs, and took Mr. S. with him (for he ſeems now to have loſt the appellation of *Doctor*) as his ſecretary. In this capacity, Mr. S. had ſeveral opportunities

portunities of displaying his abilities and intrepidity, particularly as one of the commissioners sent to treat of peace with Tippoo Sultaun, and in the seizure of General Stuart, who seemed to have been preparing to act by Lord Macartney as had been before done by the unfortunate Lord Pigot. Mr. S. was sent with a small party of seapoys to arrest the general, which he effected with great spirit and prudence, and without bloodshed.

On his return to England. the India Company settled on him a pension of 500*l. per annum*, the king created him a baronet of Ireland, and the University of Oxford conferred on him the degree of L.L.D.

It having been resolved to send an embassy to China, Lord Macartney was selected for that purpose, and he took his old friend and countryman along with him, who was not only appointed secretary to the embassy, but had also the title of envoy-extraordinary and minister-plenipotentiary bestowed on him, in order to be able to supply the place of the ambassador, in case of any unfortunate accident.

The events of this embassy, which on the whole proved rather unpropitious, are well known, and are given to the public in two quarto volumes, written by Sir George *. When we consider the short time he took to compile them, and the severe illness he actually laboured under at the time, and with which he was attacked soon after his return, we cannot withhold our praise and approbation.

As a further proof of the esteem in which the India Company held Sir George Staunton, they appointed his son, who accompanied him in the voyage, a writer to China; and had the father's health permitted, he would again have attended Lord Macartney in some honourable

* The Dutch East India Company have since undertaken a similar embassy, and we understand the very interesting narrative of it by Van Braam, will shortly make its appearance in the English language.

and

and confidential ſtation to his government at the Cape of Good Hope.

The memoirs of Sir George Staunton, if drawn up at full length, would exhibit a ſtrong and ardent mind, labouring occaſionally under difficulties, and ſurmounting dangers by patience, talents, and intrepidity. His conduct in the ſeizure of General Stuart, demonſtrates his reſolution and preſence of mind; and when treating with TIPPOO, he had the addreſs to induce M. Suffrein to ſuſpend hoſtilities, even before he had received advice from his court of the treaty of peace being ſigned between Great Britain and France.

MR.

MR. TAYLOR, THE PLATONIST.

THE ſubject of this article from his enthuſiaſtick and undiverted attachment to the religion and philoſophy of Plato, has been called by different writers, "the modern Pletho*," "the apoſtle of Paganiſm†," and "the gentile prieſt of England‡."

This very ſingular man was born in London, in the year 1758, of obſcure but worthy parents; and though in his literary career he has accompliſhed Herculean labours, yet we are informed that his body has been from his childhood weak and diſeaſed; for at the early period of ſix years of age, alarming ſymptoms of a conſumption induced his family to remove him for three years to Staffordſhire. On returning thence, in his ninth year, he was ſent to St. Paul's ſchool, to be educated for a diſſenting miniſter. Here, it ſeems, he ſoon gave indications of that contemplative turn of mind, and that averſion to merely verbal diſquiſitions, which have ſince become ſuch predominant features in his character. In proof of this, Mr. Ryder, one of the maſters of the ſchool, whenever a ſentence occurred remarkably moral or grave, in any claſſick which young Taylor was tranſlating to him, would always preface it by ſaying to the youthful Platoniſt: "Come, here is ſomething worthy the attention of a philoſopher §."

* In the ſecond edition of the Curioſities of Literature.

† See Analytical Review of his Salluſt.

‡ See Purſuits of Literature.

§ Thus too, at an early period, one of the firſt ſcholars of the age, diſcovered the *critical* turn of his mind: for when, on reading the Latin Teſtament, *at Jeſus* was printed inſtead of *ait Jeſus*, he ſhrewdly conjectured that *at* muſt be a verb, and be derived from *ao*.

The

The boy, indeed, was ſo diſguſted with the arbitrary manner in which the dead languages are taught in that, as well as in all other public ſchols, that he entreated, and at length prevailed on his father to take him home, and abandon his deſign of educating him for the miniſtry. The parent complied, indeed, but with great reluctance, as he conſidered the office of a diſſenting miniſter, the moſt deſirable and the moſt enviable employment upon earth!

About this time Mr. T. happened to become acquainted with a Miſs Morton, the eldeſt daughter of a reſpectable coal merchant in Doctor's Commons, for whom, although he was but twelve years of age, he conceived ſuch an attachment, as neither time nor diſtance could diſſolve nor impair. This young lady (his preſent wife) had received an elegant education, and united with an agreeable perſon, uncommon modeſty, liberality, and artleſs manners. Mr. T. has often declared that he was then as deeply in love as the moſt famous hero of romance, and that to ſee and converſe with his adored fair one, formed the very ſummit of his wiſhes.

During Mr. T.'s reſidence at home, while his father was yet undetermined as to his future ſituation in life, he happened to meet with Ward's Young Mathematician's Guide, and was ſo ſtruck, in looking over the book, with the ſingularity of *negative quantities*, when multiplied together producing *poſitive* ones, that he immediately conceived a ſtrong deſire to become acquainted with mathematics. His father, however, who was deeply ſkilled in modern theology, but utterly unacquainted with this ſublime and moſt uſeful ſpecies of learning, was, it ſeems, averſe to his ſon's engaging in ſuch a courſe of ſtudy; but Mr. T.'s ardour ſoon enabled him to triumph over all oppoſition, by devoting the hours of reſt to mathematical lucubrations, though to accompliſh this he was obliged to conceal a *tinder-box* under his pillow.

To

To this early acquaintance with thoſe leading branches of mathematical ſciences, arithmetic, algebra, and geometry, Mr. T. aſcribes his preſent unrivalled attachment to the philoſophy of Plato, and all the ſubſtantial felicity of his life.

About this time, viz. at the age of fifteen, Mr. T. was placed under an uncle-in-law at Sheerneſs, who happened to be one of the officers of that dock yard. Here at his leiſure hours, which were but few, he ſtill purſued the ſtudy of the ſpeculative part of mathematics; for he was of opinion that thoſe ſciences were degraded when applied to practical affairs, without then knowing that the ſame ſentiment had been adopted by Pythagoras, Plato, and Archimedes. Here, likewiſe, he read Bolingbroke and Hume, and by ſtudying their works became a convert to the *ſceptical philoſophy.*

The behaviour, however, of his uncle-in-law was ſo very tyrannical, and his opportunities for the acquiſition were ſo very inadequate to his thirſt for knowledge, that after having been in what he conſidered a ſtate of ſlavery during three years, he determined to break his fetters, and, as he could find no other refuge from oppreſſion, caſt himſelf once more into the arms of the church.

For this purpoſe he left Sheerneſs, and became, during the ſpace of two years, a pupil of one of the moſt celebrated diſſenting preachers. Under this gentleman he recovered his knowledge of the rudiments of the Latin and Greek tongues, but made no great advances in the attainment of thoſe languages, as his mind, naturally propenſe to the ſtudy of things, required an uncommon ſtimulus, to make it ſtoop to an attention to words. This ſtimulus, the philoſophy of Plato and Ariſtotle could alone inſpire.

Mr. T. it ſeems, during this courſe of miniſterial ſtudy renewed with redoubled ardour his acquaintance with Miſs M.; and what indeed is ſingular in the extreme, was

able

able to unite in amicable league, courtſhip and ſtudy. Hence he applied himſelf to Greek and Latin in the day, paid his addreſſes to his fair one in the evening, and had the courage to begin and read through the Latin quarto of Simpſon's Conic Sections at night.

About this time Mr. T. entered on the ſtudy of the modern philoſophy, and thinking himſelf qualified by his knowledge of the more abſtruſe parts of mathematics, to underſtand the ſyſtem of the univerſe as delivered in the *Principia* of Newton, he began to read that difficult work. We are informed, however, that he ſoon cloſed the book with diſguſt, exclaiming "Newton is indeed a great ma-"thematician, but no philoſopher!" He was principally induced, it ſeems, to form this concluſion, by Sir Iſaac's aſſertion * "that every the leaſt poſſible particle of matter "or body, attracts all bodies at all diſtances; that the "being, whatever it is, that attracts or impels bodies to-"wards each other, proceeds from thoſe bodies to which "it belongs, and penetrates the whole ſubſtance of the "bodies on which it acts." It appeared to him, that from this aſſertion it muſt inevitably follow, that bodies act immediately or by themſelves, without the intervention of any other being, in a place where they are not, ſince attraction is the *immediate* action of attracting bodies; that they thus act in many places at the ſame time; that they penetrate each other; and that the leaſt particle of matter is extended as far as the limits of the univerſe: all which conſequences he conſidered as glaringly abſurd.

Thus far the ſtream of Mr. T.'s life may be ſaid to have run with an equal tenour, limpid and unruffled, compared with its courſe in the ſucceeding period, in which it reſembled ſome dark river rolling with impetuous rage to the main.

The time now drew nigh, in which Mr. T. was to leave his fair one for the univerſity. But as her father, in his

* Prop. 6. 7. & 8. L. 3.

abſence,

abſence, intended to marry her to a man of large fortune, who had made her the offer of his hand, Miſs M. to ſecure herſelf from the *tyrannical* exertion of parental authority, generouſly conſented to unite herſelf to our philoſopher on condition that nothing further than the marriage ceremony took place, till he had finiſhed his ſtudies at Aberdeen. This he immediately aſſented to, and the indiſſoluble knot was tied.

But when the fates are adverſe, how vain are the moſt prudent projects! how unfortunate the moſt generous intentions! The low cunning of Mr. T.'s mother-in-law diſcovered the ſecret, ſoon after the union of the platonic pair; who, from a combination of eccleſiaſtical indignation with parental rage, were for a time expoſed to the inſult of undeſerved reproach, and the bitterneſs of real diſtreſs.

We are happy to find, however, that Mr. and Mrs. T. exculpate their parents on this occaſion: Mr. T. entirely aſcribing his father's conduct to the malicious miſrepreſentation of his mother in-law, and the anger of the church, and Mrs. T. to the unnatural and ſelfiſh conduct of ſome of her very near relations.

Whether Mr. T.'s great averſion to preſbyterians and preſbyterian miniſters, originated in this or ſome other circumſtance, we are unable to determine. Certain, however, it is, that he has ever ſince conſidered the clergy of this deſcription, as men implacable in their reſentments, whom neither pity can ſoften, nor penitence appeaſe; and has often been heard to ſay, that of all the chriſtian ſects, the members of the church of England are the beſt, and the preſbyterians the worſt.

Such indeed was the diſtreſſed ſituation of this young couple at this period, that we are informed they had no more than ſeven ſhillings a week to ſubſiſt on, for nearly a twelvemonth! This was owing to the baſe artifice of one

one of Mrs. T.'s relatives, who was left executor, and who prevailed on her father, at this time in a dying ſtate, to let him pay her what he had left her as he pleaſed. Mr. T. endeavoured indeed to obtain employment as an uſher to a boarding-ſchool; but it was ſome time before he was able to effect this, as he was abandoned both by friends and relatives, and could not even borrow ten ſhillings and ſixpence, which it ſeems is the uſual fee of thoſe who procure ſuch ſituations.

At length he was ſeparated from his partner in affliction, and ſettled as uſher to a boarding-ſchool at Paddington. As his embarraſſments were ſuch, that he was unable to remove Mrs. T. from Camberwell, where ſhe then reſided, and the only time he was permitted to ſee her was on Saturday afternoon, he could enjoy but little of her company. This little, however, was doubtleſs dear in proportion to its brevity, and the remembranee of paſt pain would, it may be preſumed, be loſt in the overflowings of reciprocal love.

Mrs. T.'s affection was, indeed, as we are informed, ſo great for her unfortunate huſband, that though then in a ſtate of pregnancy, ſhe almoſt deprived herſelf of the neceſſaries of life, that ſhe might purchaſe out of her weekly pittance of ſeven ſhillings a comfortable dinner for Mr. T. on Saturday; and letters, it ſeems, during this painful ſeparation paſſed between them, replete with ſentiments which expreſs the moſt tender and diſintereſted regard.

Mr. T. however, finding the ſituation of an uſher in itſelf extremely diſagreeable, and when attended with ſuch a ſeparation from his partner in calamity, intolerable, determined if poſſible to obtain a leſs irkſome employment; and at length, by the exertion of his few friends, he obtained a clerk's place in a reſpectable banking-houſe in the city. In this ſituation, however, he at firſt ſuffered greatly; for as his income was but fifty pounds a year, and this

paid

paid quarterly, and as he had not any money to ſpare for himſelf, and could not from his embarraſſments quit his lodging at Camberwell, he was unable to procure nutriment in the courſe of the day, adequate to the great labours he endured. Hence, he was ſo exhauſted by the time he had reached home in the evening, that he frequently fell ſenſeleſs on the floor.

We are informed that Mr. T. ſoon after he was ſettled in this employment, took a houſe at Walworth, by the aſſiſtance of a friend, who had been his ſchoolfellow; finding a reſidence at ſome ſmall diſtance from town, neceſſary for his own health, and that of Mrs. T. and much more favourable to the cultivation of his mind, of which he never ſeems to have loſt ſight, even amidſt the laſſitude of bodily weakneſs, the pain incident to uncommon fatigue, and the immediate preſſure of want.

About this time Mr. T's ſtudies, it ſeems, were chiefly confined to chemiſtry. Of all the authors in this branch of natural philoſophy, he was moſt attached to Becher, whoſe *Phyſica Subterranea*, he read with great avidity, and became a complete convert to the doctrines of that illuſtrious chemiſt. He did not, however, neglect methematics; but, in conſequence of having thought much on the quadrature of the circle, and believing he had diſcovered a method by which the rectification of it might be geometrically, though not arithmetically, obtained, he found means to publiſh a quarto pamphlet on that ſubject, which he entitled "A new Method of reaſoning in Geometry." The ſubſtance of this pamphlet, as it did not attract the attention of the public, he has ſince given to the world in a note, in the firſt volume of his tranſlation of Proclus on Euclid.

Hitherto Mr. Taylor's ſtudies may be conſidered as merely preparatory to thoſe ſpeculations, which were to diſtinguiſh him in the literary world; at leaſt, they are conſidered

conſidered in this light by the followers of Plato. It appears too, that, without knowing it, he was led to the myſtick diſcipline of that ſublime philoſopher, in the exact order preſcribed by his diſciples; for he began with ſtudying the works of Ariſtotle. He was induced, it ſeems, to engage in this courſe of ſtudy, by a paſſage in Sir Kenelm Digby's treatiſe "on Bodies and Man's Soul," in which he ſays, "that the name of Ariſtotle ought never "to be mentioned by ſcholars but with reverence, on ac-"count of his incomparable worth." This eulogium from a man who was very far from being a Peripatetic, determined Mr. T. to enter on the ſtudy of Ariſtotle, as ſoon as he could procure any of his works, and had ſufficiently recovered his knowledge of Greek.

By a fortunate circumſtance, he ſoon met with a copy of that philoſopher's Phyſics, and before he had read a page, was ſo enamoured with his pregnant brevity, accuracy, and depth, that he reſolved to make the ſtudy of Ariſtotle's philoſophy the great buſineſs of his life. Such, indeed, was his avidity to accompliſh this deſign, that he was ſoon able to read that great maſter in the original; and has often been heard to ſay, that he learned Greek rather through the Greek philoſophy, than the Greek philoſophy through Greek.

However, as he was engaged every day in the banking-houſe till at leaſt ſeven in the evening, and ſometimes till nine or ten, he was obliged to devote part of the night to ſtudy. Hence we are informed, that for ſeveral years, while he was at the banker's, he ſeldom went to bed before two or three o'clock in the morning; and having, by contemplative habits, learned to diveſt himſelf during the time which he ſet apart for ſtudy of all concern about the common affairs of life, his attention was not diverted from Ariſtotle, either by the inconveniencies ariſing from his ſlender income, or ſolicitude about the buſineſs of the day.

By

By the assistance of Aristotle's Greek Interpreters, therefore, Mr. T. read the Physics, books *de Anima*, *de Cœlo*, Logick, Morals, and Metaphysicks, of that philosopher: for, in the opinion of Mr. T. a man might as reasonably expect to understand Archimedes, who had never read Euclid, as to comprehend either Aristotle or Plato, *who wrote obscurely from design*, without the assistance of their Greek commentators. Hence he has often been heard to say, that the folly of neglecting the invaluable commentaries of the ancients, on those philosophers, is only to be equalled by the arrogance of such as affect to despise them; since these interpreters possessed a traditional knowledge of the Greek philosophy, had books to consult on that subject which are now lost, spent their whole lives in the study of it, were men of the deepest erudition, and must be infinitely better qualified to explain the meaning of the text of Plato and Aristotle, than any modern can pretend to be, because the Greek was their native tongue. Mr. T. even carries his attachment to these interpreters so far as to assert, that from the oblivion in which they have been so long concealed, the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle has not been accurately understood for upwards of a thousand years.

Mr. T. therefore, who, by divesting himself at night of those habits of business which he had been contracting in the day, may be said in this respect to have resembled Penelope, made it a constant rule to digest what he had learned from Aristotle, while he was walking about with bills. This, when he was once master of his employment, he accomplished with great facility, without either committing mistakes, or retarding his business. We are, indeed, informed from good authority, that while in that department, he was always distinguished for accuracy and dispatch.

Mr.

Mr. T. having in this manner applied himſelf to the ſtudy of Ariſtotle, and preſuming that he was ſufficiently inſtructed in his philoſophy, betook himſelf to the more ſublime ſpeculations of Plato; conſidering the Peripatetick diſcipline, when compared with that of Plato, as bearing the relation of the leſs to the greater myſteries: and in this light it ſeems, the two philoſophies were always conſidered by the beſt of the Platoniſts.

Mr. T. had not long entered on the ſtudy of Plato, before he met with the works of Plotinus, which he read, we are told, with an inſatiable avidity, and the moſt rapturous delight, notwithſtanding the obſcurity of his diction, and the profundity of his conceptions. After having been well imbued in the doctrines of Plotinus, he betook himſelf to the ſix books of Proclus, on the Theology of Plato, a work which he found to be ſo uncommonly abſtruſe, that he has been heard to ſay, he did not thoroughly underſtand it, till he had read it thrice over.

While he was engaged in the ſtudy of Proclus, who appears upon the whole to be of all the Platoniſts Mr. T's greateſt favourite, the celebrated Mrs. Woolſtoncraft, and her friend Miſs Blood, reſided with our Philoſopher for nearly three months. Mr. T. has been known to obſerve of Mrs. W. that during her ſtay with him, he thought her a very modeſt, ſenſible, and agreeable young lady; that ſhe often heard him explain the doctrines of Plato, and was always pleaſed with his converſation on that ſubject; but confeſſed herſelf more inclined to an active than a contemplative life. She often too complimented him on the tranquillity of his manners, and uſed to call the little room which he made his ſtudy, "the abode of peace."

Mr. T. obſerved, that he afterwards called on her when ſhe lived in George ſtreet, and that he has there drunk wine with her out of a *tea cup*; Mrs. W. remarking at the time, that ſhe did not give herſelf the trouble to think

whether a wine-glaſs was not a neceſſary utenſil in a houſe. He added, he has heard her ſay, "that one of the conditions ſhe ſhould make previous to marriage, with the man ſhe intended for her huſband, would be this—that he would never preſume to enter the room in which ſhe was ſitting, till he had firſt knocked at the door."

But to return from theſe eccentricities, which would not have been worthy of remark in a woman of leſs merit, to our Platoniſt. When Mr. T. had been nearly ſix years at the banking-houſe, he became ſo diſguſted with the ſervility of the employment, and found his health ſo much impaired from the combination of ſevere bodily and mental efforts, added to an incurable diſorder in the bladder, which he had laboured under for a long time, that he determined to emancipate himſelf, if poſſible, from ſlavery, and live by the exertion of his talents.

In order to effect this, he turned his attention to a ſubject, which he had often thought on in the days of his youth, viz. the poſſibility of making a *perpetual lamp*; as he was convinced from Licetus and Biſhop Wilkins, that ſuch lamps had been conſtructed by the ancients. He began, therefore, to make ſome experiments with phoſphorus, determining for a while to deſcend from mind to matter, and ſtoop in order to conquer. In the courſe of theſe experiments, he found that oil and ſalt boiled together, in a certain proportion, formed a fluid, which when phoſphorus was immerſed in it, both preſerved and increaſed its ſplendor.

In conſequence of this diſcovery, he exhibited at the Free Maſons' tavern a ſpecimen of phoſphoric light, ſufficient to read by at the diſtance of a yard; but the room in which this was ſhewn being ſmall, and very warm from the weather, and the number of perſons that came to ſee it, the phoſphorus caught fire, and thus raiſed a prejudice againſt the invention, which could never afterwards be

be removed. This exhibition, however, procured Mr. T. ſuch friends * as at length enabled him to emancipate himſelf from the banker's, and procure ſubſiſtence for himſelf and his family by literary toil.

His firſt effort after this, to emerge from obſcurity, was by compoſing twelve Lectures on the Platonic philoſophy, at the requeſt of Mr. Flaxman, the ſtatuary, who had been one of the auditors of Mr. T's Lecture on Light, and who very benevolently permitted him to read his Lectures in the largeſt room of his houſe. He likewiſe procured for him ſome very reſpectable auditors, ſuch as Sir William Fordyce, the Hon. Mrs Damer, Mrs. Coſway, Mr. Romney, &c. &c. and was the means of his becoming acquainted with Mr. Bennet Langton, well known for his great intimacy with the late Dr. Johnſon.

To this gentleman he read his Platonic Lectures, with which Mr. L. was ſo much pleaſed, as likewiſe with the converſation and uncommon application which our Platoniſt had given to ſtudy, that he at length mentioned him to the king, under the appellation of *a gigantic reader*, in hopes that the rays of royal attention might be ſo ſtrongly collected upon him, as to diſſipate the obſcurity in which he was then involved, and give additional vigour and ardour to his purſuits. Mr. L. it ſeems, mentioned him thrice to his Majeſty, who was pleaſed to enquire after his family, and to expreſs his admiration of Mr. T's. ardour and perſeverance in the purſuit of knowledge, in a ſituation ſo unfavourable to its acquiſition as that of a banker's clerk; but we do not find that this well-meant effort on the part of Mr. L. procured our Platoniſt any patronage from the throne.

* This, we are informed, was principally through the means of Mr. Geo. Cumberland, the author of ſeveral ingenious works.

About this time, Mr. T. became acquainted with Mr. William Meredith of Harley-place, a circumſtance which he juſtly conſiders as forming, by far, one of the moſt important and fortunate events of his life. This gentleman, as we are informed, in addition to an ample fortune, poſſeſſes a moſt elegant and liberal mind; and though concerned in a very extenſive trade, has found leiſure for the ſtudy of the beſt Engliſh writers, and the beſt Engliſh tranſlations of the works of the ancients. He became deeply enamoured with the doctrines of Plato, from Mr. Sydenham's tranſlation of ſome of that philoſopher's dialogues; and this fondneſs for Plato, at length occaſioned his attachment to Mr. Taylor.

We are happy in being able to aſſure the public on good authority, that under the very noble and ſingular patronage of this gentleman and his brother Mr. George Meredith, he was enabled to give the world his tranſlation of "the Hymns of Orpheus," the "Commentaries of Proclus on Euclid," and the "ballad of Cupid and Pſyche." The abilities of the latter of theſe gentlemen, and his knowledge of the ſcience of architecture, which he has diſplayed in many beautiful drawings, have ſeldom been equalled, or will rarely be excelled. We likewiſe do not in the leaſt doubt but that Mr. T. in the courſe of his ſtormy life, has experienced the liberality of theſe gentlemen upon occaſions with which we are entirely unacquainted.

While Mr. T. was engaged, under the patronage of Meſſrs. W. and G. M. in tranſlating and illuſtrating at his leiſure hours the Commentaries of Proclus (for the principal part of his time was employed in teaching the Claſſics), the Marquis de Valady took up his reſidence for three or four months at Mr. T's houſe. As the public have already been much gratified with anecdotes* of this ſingular cha-

* See "Biographical Anecdotes of the Founders of the French Republick." Vol. I.

racter,

racter, and particularly with his adventures with Mr. T. we ſhall inſert in addition to thoſe, the following particulars, which our Platoniſt has been heard to mention reſpecting him.

The Marquis, who profeſſed himſelf a rigid Pythagorean, under the notion that a community of poſſeſſions in *every thing* was perfectly Pythagoric; often converſed with Mr. T. on this ſubject, and once aſked him, if he did not think it true Pythagorean friendſhip, for the wife of the married to be ſhared by the unmarried friend. The *hint was broad.* But Mr. T. thought proper not to take it; on the contrary he ſeverely reprobated the idea, as entirely foreign from that purity of conduct which forms the baſis of the Pythagoric and Platonic philoſophy.

He likewiſe once told Mr. T. that if he had a ſon, he ſhould make him, as ſoon as he had the proper uſe of his limbs, climb a high tree every morning for his breakfaſt, and afterwards fling him into a river, in order to learn him to ſwim.

Dining once at Mr. Bennet Langton's, with Mr. T. Mr. (now Dr.) Burney, and many other eminent ſcholars, he exclaimed to his friend, as ſoon as he left the houſe, "God keep me from Critics!" This was occaſioned by a diſpute which aroſe at that time reſpecting the propriety of the epithet *ocean ſtream*, which Mr. T. had made uſe of in his tranſlation of one of the Orphic hymns. Mr. T. urged in his defence, that this epithet was employed by Homer, Heſiod and Plato. To this Dr. B. replied, that Homer indeed had the expreſſion ωκεανου ποταμοιο, *the ocean-river*, but that a *river* was not a *ſtream*. Mr. T. then obſerved that theſe words were conſidered as ſynonimous by no leſs poets than Milton and Sir John Denham. By Milton, when ſpeaking of the leviathan (Paradiſe Loſt, book I.), he ſays,

"——or

" ———————— or that ſea beaſt
" Leviathan, whom God of all his works
" Created hugeſt, that ſwim th' *ocean ſtream.*"

And by Denham, in the firſt of thoſe famous lines on the Thames:

" O could I flow like thee, and make thy *ſtream*
" My great exemplar, as it is my theme."

The genius of the Marquis ſeemed naturally inclined to war. Whenever he went to bed, he was heard to repeat as he was going up ſtairs, thoſe animated lines of Neptune to the Greeks, from the Iliad by Pope:

———————" On daſtards dead to fame,
" I waſte no anger, for they feel no ſhame!"

And if ever any one attempted to prove that modern warriors were equally heroic with the ancient ones, he would indignantly exclaim, in the words of Minerva to Tydides:

" Such Tydeus was, and ſuch his martial fire;
" Gods! how the ſon degenerates from the ſire!"

We find that Mr. T. ſoon after the Marquis left him, came into the poſſeſſion of ſix or ſeven hundred pounds, in conſequence of the death of a relation of his wife. A conſiderable part of this, it ſeems, Mr. T. ſpent in relieving the neceſſities of his own relations; but was not ſufficiently a man of the world to know how to diſpoſe of the remaining part of it to his own advantage. About five or ſix years after this, he again ſeems to have laboured under the preſſure of want; to relieve which, with incredible diligence, he tranſlated, and illuſtrated with copious introductions and ſome notes, five of the moſt abſtruſe of Plato's Dialogues, in the ſhort ſpace of about ſeven months; the copy of which he ſold for no more than forty pounds!

After

After this, he wrote his "Diſſertation on the Eleuſi-"nian and Bacchic Myſteries," in conſequence of ſome conſiderable information on that ſubject which he had obtained from the peruſal of three Greek manuſcripts in the Britiſh Muſeum. One of theſe, it ſeems, is the Commentary of Proclus on the Parmenides of Plato, and is a folio volume conſiſting of four hundred pages. This with the other two, which are likewiſe folio volumes of no inconſiderable ſize, Mr. T. had the courage to copy for his own private uſe.

Shortly after this, he tranſlated the Platonic Salluſt "On the Gods and the World;" the "Pythagoric Sentences of Demophilus;" and Five Hymns of Proclus: likewiſe Two Orations of the Emperor Julian; and Five books of Plotinus: all which, we are informed, he ſold for no more than twenty pounds!

But the moſt laborious of all his undertakings, and for which he ſeems to have received leſs in proportion than for any of his other publications, was his tranſlation of Pauſanias. When this taſk was firſt propoſed to Mr. T. by the bookſeller, Mr. Samuel Patterſon, well known to the literary world by ſeveral very ingenious publications, happening to be preſent, obſerved, "that it was enough to break a man's heart." "O (replied the bookſeller) nothing will break the heart of Mr. T.!" This Herculean labour our Platoniſt accompliſhed in the ſpace of ten months, though the notes are of ſuch an extent, and ſo full of uncommonly abſtruſe learning, that the compoſition of them might be ſuppoſed to have taken up a much longer time. For that arduous work, we almoſt bluſh to ſay, Mr. T. received no more than ſixty pounds; and we are grieved to add, that his health was greatly injured by his exceſſive application on that occaſion. We are indeed informed, that the debility of his body became ſo extreme after this, that at times he was incapable of any exertion; and what is ſingular,

gular, he has ever ſince been deprived of the uſe of his forefinger in writing.

Our Platoniſt, however, in a ſhort time exhibited an indubitable proof that he poſſeſſes an ardour which neither toil can abate, embarraſſments impede, nor even debility extinguiſh; and which, like gunpowder ſet on fire, ſeems to riſe with renewed vigour, in proportion as it has been compreſſed. Notwithſtanding the extreme laſſitude of his whole bodily frame, and the difficulty with which he was able to write, he engaged, under the patronage of an anonymous gentleman of fortune, to tranſlate all thoſe dialogues of Plato which have not been clothed in our native dreſs by Sydenham and others, together with his epiſtles, in order that by reviſing what has been already done, he might give the whole of Plato to the world in an Engliſh garb. This great undertaking we underſtand he accompliſhed in the ſpace of about two years; and the work now only waits for a liberal patronage to be made public.

Under the patronage too of the ſame gentleman, he has tranſlated the greater part of Ariſtotle's Nichomachean Ethics, and at preſent we hear Meſſrs. W. and G. Meredith have engaged him to tranſlate Ariſtotle's Metaphyſics, of which he has already nearly accompliſhed the firſt three books.

We are likewiſe happy to inform the public, from good authority, that Thomas Brand Hollis, eſq. has been for many years much attached to our Platoniſt; that he frequently invites him to his table; and that he has always ſhewn himſelf active in promoting his welfare, though we are uncertain as to the time when Mr. T's intimacy with Mr. Hollis commenced.

We ſhall only add, that Mr. T. is at preſent aſſiſtant ſecretary to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce; a ſituation which he obtained by a very conſiderable majority of votes, through the

the uncommon exertion of his friends; and that prior to this, ſome of them had procured him a ſituation in one of the public offices, to the fatigues of which finding his ſtrength by no means adequate, and the employment appearing to him extremely ſervile, he relinquiſhed it almoſt immediately after his nomination, and compoſed the following lines on the occaſion:

To ev'ry power that reigns on high,
Swifter than light my thanks ſhall fly,
That from the B***k's dark dungeons free,
I once more hail ſweet liberty:
For ſure, I ween, fate ne'er me doom'd
To be 'midſt ſordid cares entomb'd,
And vilely waſte in groveling toil
The mid-day blaze and midnight oil,
To ſome poor darkling deſk confin'd;
While the wing'd energies of mind
Oppreſs'd and cruſh'd, and vanquiſh'd lie,
And loſe at length the pow'r to fly.
A doom like this be his alone,
To whom truth's charms were never known;
Who many ſleepleſs night has ſpent,
In ſchemes full fraught with *cent per cent.*
The ſlave of av'rice, child of care,
And loſt to all that's good and fair.

GENERAL

GENERAL MELVILLE,

A Man of amiable manners, and extenſive information, is the ſon of a Scotch gentleman of ſmall fortune. Entering early into the army, at the beginning of the war of 1756, he had riſen to the rank of major, in the 38th, or Durour's, regiment of foot; with which regiment he embarked for the Weſt-Indies, and ſerved under General Hopſon when that officer made his unſucceſsful attack on Martinico.

The army having after this proceeded to Guadaloupe, the major ſerved under General Barrington in the reduction of that place; and when Fort-Royal was taken, he was appointed to command it. No ſooner was he inveſted with this poſt, than he was immediately attacked by the enemy; but by a judicious ſally he forced their entrenchments, and ſpiked their cannon. On this occaſion the *commandant* was wounded, but not ſo as to preclude him from the exerciſe of his talents, for he was entruſted by the conqueror with the office of lieutenant-governor of the iſland.

Soon after this, he was made lieutenant-colonel of the 38th regiment, which, we believe, is the laſt *regimental* promotion he obtained in the army.

On the eſtabliſhment of the governments of the ceded iſlands upon the peace, Colonel Melville was appointed governor of Grenada, in which capacity he reſided on the ſpot for ſeveral years, and acquired a handſome eſtate there. While in this ſituation, he was honoured with the local rank of major-general in the Weſt-Indies, and has ſince riſen to the full rank of general in the army, to which ſtation he was promoted in 1780.

This gentleman's ample fortune, and the unfortunate * accident which deprived him of his ſight, have rendered

* This melancholy event occurred in conſequence of the exploſion of ſome gun-powder, while in actual ſervice.

any

any profitable poſt in the army on the one hand unneceſſary, and on the other impracticable.

Since his return from the Weſt-Indies, the general has aſſociated much with the literary world, and to his honour be it ſpoken, has been very active in promoting public charities of all kinds, of which the preſent flouriſhing ſtate of the Scots' corporation is a ſtrong evidence. He has alſo written two or three much eſteemed papers for the Royal Society, of which he is a member; theſe are to be met with in the Philoſophical Tranſactions.

When Tobago was relinquiſhed at the peace of 1783, General Melville and Sir William Younge were ſent to France by the proprietors of lands in that iſland, to ſolicit ſome terms in their favour, as it had been ceded without the neceſſary ſtipulations for their property. Their miſſion, although not completely ſucceſsful, was on the whole proſperous.

While General Melville governed Grenada, a party was formed, and ſome complaints were tranſmitted home againſt him: it is but candid, however, to ſuppoſe, what every one perſonally acquainted with that gentleman will be moſt readily diſpoſed to believe, that on this, as on every other occaſion, he conducted himſelf, with a due regard to propriety.

The General is a man of very liberal principles, both in reſpect to politics and religion, having voted at the Weſtminſter election for John Horne Tooke, eſq. and been one of the ſubſcribers to Mr. David Williams's chapel, in Mortimer-ſtreet.

We have only to add, that he is uncommonly ſkilled in military affairs, and that his converſation is rarely to be equalled for its fluency and propriety.

BEILBY

BEILBY PORTEUS, D.D.

LORD BISHOP OF LONDON.

RELIGION, in looking round among her moſt brilliant ornaments, and moſt powerful advocates of the preſent age, can hardly fix upon a more favourite object, than the very amiable and truly primitive prelate, who now claims our notice. Far be it from us to depreciate the merits of any divine, much leſs to exalt the character of one member of the epiſcopacy at the expence of another. Still we are confident, that all ranks and parties will agree with us in ſaying, that a more beautiful picture of genuine chriſtian ſimplicity, united with epiſcopal dignity, was never exhibited to public obſervation, than in the ſubject of this biographical ſketch.

Dr. Beilby Porteus is a native of Yorkſhire, and was born about 1731. His father was a reputable tradeſman, who, after giving his ſon a good education, at the grammar ſchool of Rippon, under the Rev. Mr. Hyde, ſent him to Cambridge, where he was entered of Chriſt's College. In this reſpectable ſociety he diſtinguiſhed himſelf by an aſſiduous application to his ſtudies, directing them in an eſpecial manner to that ſacred function for which he had an early predilection, and in which he has ſince ſo eminently ſhone.

He took his degree of B.A. in 1752, and in the courſe of the ſame year gained one of the medals given for the beſt claſſical eſſay by the Duke of Newcaſtle, then Chancellor of the Univerſity.

March 14, 1754, he was appointed one of the Eſquire Beadles of the Univerſity, which office he reſigned July 3, 1755, and in the ſame year, took his degree of Maſter

of

of Arts. Nearly about this time he was elected Fellow of his College, and was made one of the preachers at Whitehall chapel. In 1759, he obtained the Seatonian prize, for the beſt compoſition on DEATH. This poem evinces great poetical powers, and as it is the only piece of his, in this line, that has ever appeared in public, except a few verſes on the death of the late king, we truſt that the reader will be pleaſed with an extract from it in this place. The part we ſelect is the poet's concluding prayer:

" At thy good time,
" Let death approach; I reck not—let him but come
" In genuine form, not with thy vengeance arm'd,
" Too much for man to bear. O rather lend
" Thy kindly aid to mitigate his ſtroke.
" And at that hour, when all aghaſt I ſtand
" (A trembling candidate for thy compaſſion)
" On this world's brink, and look into the next;
" When my ſoul, ſtarting from the dark unknown,
" Caſts back a wiſhful look, and fondly clings
" To her frail prop, unwilling to be wrench'd
" From this fair ſcene, from all her 'cuſtom'd joys,
" And all the lovely relatives of life,
" Then ſhed thy comforts o'er me; then put on
" The gentleſt of thy looks.—Let no dark crimes,
" In all their hideous forms then ſtarting up,
" Plant themſelves round my couch in dread array,
" And ſtab my bleeding heart with two-edg'd torture —
" Senſe of paſt guilt, and dread of future woe.
" Far be the ghaſtly crew! And in their ſtead
" Let cheerful memory, from her pureſt cells,
" Lead forth a goodly train of virtues fair,
" Cheriſh'd in earlieſt youth, now paying back,
" With tenfold uſury, the pious care,
" And pouring o'er my wounds the heav'nly balm
" Of conſcious innocence. But chiefly Thou,
" Whom ſoft-ey'd Pity once led down from heav'n
" To bleed for man, to teach him how to live,
" And oh! ſtill harder leſſon! how to die;
" Diſdain not Thou to ſmooth the reſtleſs bed
" Of ſickneſs and of pain. Forgive the tear
" That feeble nature drops, calm all her fears,
" Wake all her hopes, and animate her faith,

" Till

" Till my rapt ſoul, anticipating heaven,
" Burſts from the thraldom of incumb'ring clay,
" And, on the wings of ecſtacy upborne,
" Springs into liberty, and light, and life!"

In 1760, appeared a ſingular piece of infidelity, under the title of " The Hiſtory of the Man after God's own Heart," written by Peter Annet, with a view of expoſing the ſacred hiſtory to contempt, on account of the defects in the character of David. Though this performance was exceedingly deficient in point of argument, it was calculated to do conſiderable miſchief from its ſophiſtry, boldneſs, and vivacity. On this account, ſeveral able writers undertook to vindicate the ſcriptures, and among the reſt our ingenious divine publiſhed a ſermon, preached Nov. 29, 1761, before the Univerſity of Cambridge, which he entitled, " The Character of David, King of Iſrael, impartially ſtated."

This diſcourſe, it is ſuppoſed, recommended him to the patronage of Dr. Secker, then Archbiſhop of Canterbury, who appointed him about this time one of his domeſtic chaplains, and in 1762 preſented him to the rectory of Witterſham in Kent.

In 1764, that excellent prelate gave him the rectory of Bucking, in the ſame county, and alſo a prebendal ſtall in the cathedral church of Peterborough.

May 13, 1765, Mr. Porteus was married by the Archbiſhop to Miſs Hodgſon, of Parliament-ſtreet, and in the ſame year he obtained the valuable living of Hunton. He was created doctor of divinity, July 7, 1767, and in the month following the Archbiſhop gave him the rectory of Lambeth, vacant by the death of Dr. Denne, with which he was allowed to hold the rectory of Hunton.

In 1768 Archbiſhop Secker died, and by his will intruſted to his chaplains, Drs. Porteus and Stinton, the reviſion and publication of his Lectures on the Church Catechiſm, Sermons,

Sermons, &c. This truſt was moſt faithfully executed; and to the ſermons, which were publiſhed in 1770, was prefixed an elegant memoir, reſpecting the venerable author, ſolely written by Dr. Porteus; this was reprinted in a ſeparate form in 1798, with additions, and it is ſurely ſufficient praiſe to obſerve, that this piece of biography obtained the approbation of Dr. Johnſon.

In 1776, our divine became maſter of St. Croſs, an option of Archbiſhop Secker; and in January following he was deſervedly raiſed to the epiſcopal bench, by the tranſlation of Dr. Markham from the ſee of Cheſter to the Archbiſhoprick of York. This promotion, it is generally underſtood, was owing to the immediate ſolicitation of the Queen, to whom Dr. Porteus had been particularly acceptable as a private chaplain, when ſhe was indiſpoſed. In this ſtation he conducted himſelf with primitive zeal, and blended with true epiſcopal dignity all the ſimplicity and earneſtneſs of a chriſtian miniſter.

In 1776, obſerving the negligence with which that awful day appropriated by the church, in early ages, to the commemoration of the ſufferings and death of the Redeemer was treated, eſpecially in the metropolis, his lordſhip printed "An earneſt exhortation to the religious Ob-" ſervance of Good Friday, in a Letter to the Inhabitants " of Lambeth." This addreſs excited conſiderable notice, and the ingenious Mr. Robert Robinſon, of Cambridge, publiſhed a pamphlet in reply to it, under the title of the "Hiſtory and Myſtery of Good Friday."

The Biſhop, however, had the ſatisfaction to ſee that his exhortation was attended with the deſired effects. The Society for promoting Chriſtian Knowledge ſeconded his laudable endeavours, by cauſing his pamphlet to be printed in a cheap form, and circulated in great abundance, by which means, numbers were induced to ſee the neceſſity of paying a proper reſpect to this ſolemn anniverſary; ſo that

that from that time it has uſually been kept in the metropolis and its vicinity with great ſtrictneſs.

In 1783, the Biſhop of Cheſter preached before the Society for Propagating the Goſpel in Foreign Parts, on which occaſion he pleaded in a forcible and pathetic manner the cauſe of the African ſlaves, in our Weſt Indian ſettlements. This ſermon attracted conſiderable notice; and led the way to great exertions on behalf of thoſe unfortunate victims of avarice and oppreſſion.

In 1787, on the death of Biſhop Lowth, Dr. Porteus was tranſlated to the ſee of London, a circumſtance which gave univerſal ſatisfaction to every friend of religion, whether in or out of the eſtabliſhment.

In 1792, his Lordſhip was the means of founding a ſociety for the converſion of negro ſlaves in the Weſt Indies, which we have the ſatisfaction to find has been very ſucceſsful. His exertions in the cauſe of chriſtianity have been unremitted, and conducted upon the moſt liberal principles. The breath of cenſure has not ventured to aſſail his name, even with the ſuſpicion of reproach. Men of all parties have concurred in praiſing his candour, faithfulneſs, moderation, and liberality of mind.

In order to counteract the ſpirit of infidelity, his Lordſhip commenced during laſt Lent a ſeries of Lectures on the Truth of the Goſpel Hiſtory, and the Divinity of Chriſt's Miſſion, which he preached in St. James's church, Weſtminſter; and which will be reſumed at the ſame ſeaſon next year. Theſe were delivered every Friday, before crowded and admiring audiences, compoſed of perſons of all perſuaſions. His warm and impreſſive manner, plain but forcible language, clear and convincing arguments, aided by a moſt captivating eloquence, not only drew from the multitudes who heard him the unanimous voice of applauſe, but, it is to be hoped, produced a more ſubſtantial good, in bringing conviction home to many minds.

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The Biſhop is, we believe, a more frequent preacher than the reſt of his brethren; for he is not only ready to aſſiſt public charities by his elocution, but during his ſummer reſidence in the country, he often aſcends the pulpit to explain the principles, and enforce the precepts, of our ſublime religion.

We cannot cloſe this imperfect ſketch of ſo brilliant a character, without mentioning one part of his conduct, which entitles him to additional praiſe. The point we allude to, is the moderate ſpirit he has manifeſted in the agitation of political queſtions. Though he has uniformly voted with his Majeſty's miniſters; he has not made himſelf an active partizan, by throwing fuel upon the unhappy fire which diſtracts the public mind. On the contrary, he has ſteered that pacific courſe, which becomes an ambaſſador of the Prince of Peace; the apoſtle of him who emphatically ſaid, that "he was not the king of this world."

Biſhop Porteus is not only eminent for his piety, but alſo for his literary accompliſhments, which rank him amongſt the moſt elegant ſcholars of the age. His ſtyle is pure and claſſically correct, at the ſame time that it is remarkably plain and free from ornament.

Beſides the pieces already mentioned, he is the author of two volumes of moſt excellent ſermons; and ſeveral Charges and ſmall tracts, on religious ſubjects.

W.

JOSIAH TUCKER, DD.

DEAN OF GLOUCESTER.

THIS venerable divine, ſo long, and ſo juſtly celebrated for his commercial ſagacity, was born at Laugharn, in Caermarthenſhire, in the year 1712. His father was a farmer, and having a ſmall eſtate left him at or near Aberyſtwith, in Cardiganſhire, he removed thither; and perceiving that his ſon had a turn for learning, he ſent him to Ruthin ſchool in Denbighſhire, where he made ſo reſpectable a progreſs in the claſſics, that he obtained an exhibition at Jeſus College, Oxford.

The journey from his native place to the univerſity was long, and at that time very tedious, on account of the badneſs of the roads. Our young ſtudent for ſome time travelled on foot. At laſt, old Mr. Tucker feeling for his ſon's reputation, as well as for his eaſe, gave him his own horſe, that he might viſit Oxford more reputably.

Upon his return, young Joſiah, with true filial affection, conſidered that it was better for him to walk to Oxford, than for his father to repair on foot to repair to the neighbouring markets and fairs, which had been, in fact, the caſe, owing to this new regulation. The horſe was accordingly returned; and our ſtudent for the remainder of the time he continued at the univerſity, actually trudged backwards and forwards with his baggage on his back!

At the age of twenty-three he entered into holy orders, and ſerved a curacy ſome time in Glouceſterſhire.

About 1737, he became curate of St. Stephen's church in Briſtol, and was appointed minor canon in the cathedral of

of that city. Here he attracted the notice of that profound divine, Dr. Joseph Butler, then bishop of Bristol, and afterwards of Durham. In consequence of this, the bishop appointed Mr. Tucker his domestic chaplain; and the latter has told the writer of this article, that they frequently walked in the palace-gardens in the dark, generally conversing upon metaphysical and theological subjects.

Oftentimes the good bishop would be sunk in a profound reverie, in which he would continue for a considerable period, and then all at once break out with some singular remark. After one of these absences of mind, he suddenly asked Mr. Tucker, "whether he did not think "it possible that whole communities of men might be seiz-"ed with a fit of madness?"

The question was so odd, that the chaplain was silent, and thought the bishop's intellects a little disordered for the time. A greater share of experience and closer observation of mankind, especially during great political epochs, have, perhaps, given our divine reason to think there is more justness in the observation than he was at first inclined to suppose!

By the interest of this amiable and learned prelate, Mr. Tucker obtained a prebendal stall in the cathedral of Bristol; and on the death of the pious and ingenious Mr. Catcott, well known by his treatise on the Deluge, and a volume of excellent sermons, he became rector of St. Stephen. The inhabitants of that parish consist chiefly of merchants and tradesmen, a circumstance which greatly aided his natural inclination for commercial and political studies.

In 1745, he preached an excellent sermon before the governors of a very laudable institution, then first erected in the city of Bristol. In this discourse, the preacher took a course which has rarely been pursued: instead of dwelling, as most have done, upon the benevolent tendency of

theſe eſtabliſhments, he conſidered them "as ſo many re-
"formatories, or ſchools, erected for the revival and pro-
"pagation of morality and religion, and as means which
"may conduce towards a national reformation in the com-
"mon people."

After mentioning, briefly indeed, but pointedly, the general depravity of the lower ranks, he ſays, "Nay, and "when their extravagancies have run to that height as to "call for *corporal puniſhment*, and the cenſure of the ma-"giſtrate, there are no hopes or proſpect of *reclaiming* "them by that means. For they have made it a ſort of "point of honour to outbrave the puniſhment; as for the "ſhame and infamy attending it, theſe things make *now* "but little impreſſion on them: ſo that we have nothing "left of diſcipline in our places of chaſtiſement and con-"finement, but their names. For our *houſes* of correcti-"on, as they are called, are ſo far from anſwering the "original ends of their inſtitution, that they *corrupt* more "than *correct*, and *harden* rather than *reform*; ſo as to "make the *young* offender, if ſent there, to be threefold "more the child of hell than he was before."

This ſtrong cenſure, perhaps, is full as applicable to the objects upon which it was originally made now, as it was above half a century back.

When the famous bill was brought into the houſe of commons for the naturalization of the Jews, Mr. Tucker, conſidering the ſubject with an enlarged mind, took a decided part in favour of the meaſure, and was indeed its moſt able advocate.

The opponents of the bill, tranſported with an extraordinary zeal for the Chriſtian religion, which they affected to think was in danger by this ſtep, treated our divine with great rudeneſs and virulence on the occaſion. He was not only ſeverely attacked in pamphlets, newſpapers, and magazines; but the pious people of Briſtol, who had,

had, perhaps, hardened their hearts into intolerance by a traffic in human flesh, burnt his effigy dressed in canonicals, together with his letters on behalf of naturalization!

In 1753, he published an able pamphlet on the "Turkey Trade," in which he demonstrates the evils that result to trade in general from chartered companies.

At this period, Lord Clare (afterward Earl Nugent) was returned to parliament for Bristol, which honour he obtained chiefly through the strenuous exertions of Mr. Tucker, whose influence in his large and wealthy parish was almost decisive on such an occasion. In return for this favour the Earl procured for him the Deanery of Gloucester, in 1758, at which time he took his degree of doctor in divinity.

So great was his reputation for commercial knowledge, which to a nation situated like our's is of the first importance, that Dr. Thomas Hayter, afterwards Bishop of London, who was then tutor to his present majesty, applied to Dr. Tucker to draw up a dissertation on this subject for the perusal of his royal pupil. It was accordingly done, and gave great satisfaction. This work, under the title of "The Elements of Commerce," was printed in quarto, but never published.

Dr. Warburton, however, who after having been member of the same chapter with the Dean, at Bristol, became Bishop of Gloucester, thought very differently from the rest of mankind, in respect to his talents, and favourite pursuits; and said once, in his coarse manner, that "his "Dean's trade was religion, and religion his trade."

But in refutation of this charge, we might produce the Dean's various publications on moral and religious subjects, which shew him to be not only deeply versed in theology, but also, what is far better, a man of genuine philanthropy.

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In the year 1771, when a ſtrong attempt was made to procure an abolition of ſubſcription to the thirty-nine articles, Dr. Tucker came forwards as an able and moderate advocate of the church of England. Though he reſiſted with ſtrong and clear arguments the claims of the petitioners on that occaſion, he yet candidly admitted that ſome reformation of the liturgy was wanted, and inſtanced particularly the Athanaſian Creed, which he conſidered as too ſcholaſtic and refined, for a popular confeſſion of faith, and as the Nicene Creed is admitted, he further deemed the other to be ſuperfluous.

About this time he publiſhed "Directions for Travellers," in which he lays down excellent rules, by which gentlemen who viſit foreign countries may not only improve their own minds, but turn their obſervations to the benefit of their native country.

That excellent prelate, Archbiſhop Secker, was highly pleaſed with this uſeful performance, and ſent the author ſome obſervations which he had made in the courſe of his peruſal of it. The public would be much gratified by a new edition of theſe "Directions," with the Archbiſhop's obſervations annexed.

In 1772, the Dean printed a ſmall volume of ſermons, in which he explains the doctrines of *election* and *juſtification*, upon ſcriptural grounds, in oppoſition to what has been called the *evangelical ſyſtem of faith*. At that time a very violent diſpute was carried on between the Calviniſtick and the Arminian Methodiſts, the former headed by Meſſrs. Toplady and Hill, and the latter by the Meſſrs. Weſleys and Fletcher.

The year following he publiſhed "Letters to the Rev. Dr. Kippis, wherein the claim of the church of England to an authority in matters of faith, and to a power of decreeing rites and ceremonies, is diſcuſſed and aſcertained," &c. 8vo.

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The diſpute between Great Britain and her colonies in North America, began now to aſſume a very ſerious and portentous aſpect, and nothing leſs than an open rupture was expected, in conſequence of the obſtinacy of the one, and the firmneſs of the other.

The Dean was an attentive obſerver of this conteſt. He examined the affair with a very different eye from that of a party-man, or an intereſted merchant, and he diſcovered, as he conceived, that both ſides would be better off by an abſolute ſeparation. The more he thought on this ſubject, the more he was perſuaded that extenſive colonies were an evil, rather than a benefit to any commercial nation.

On this principle, therefore, he publiſhed his "Thoughts upon the Diſpute between the Mother Country and America." He demonſtrated that the latter could not be conquered, and that if it could, the purchaſe would be dearly bought. He warned this country againſt commencing a war with the colonies, and adviſed that they ſhould be left to themſelves, an event which would be productive of infinite good to Great Britain.

This poſition and advice ſtartled all parties, as well thoſe who were advocates for American freedom, as thoſe who were zealots for coercive meaſures and taxation. By both the Dean was conſidered as a ſort of madman, who had rambled out of the proper line of his profeſſion to commence political quack; and it is remarkable that thoſe two great men, Dr. Johnſon and Edmund Burke, treated the Doctor's hypotheſis with great contempt, though the one was the champion of, and the other an enemy to, taxation.

Mr. Burke's language in the Houſe of Commons reſpecting the Dean's propoſal was, indeed, exceeding harſh and illiberal. In his famous ſpeech on American taxation, April 13th, 1774, this famous orator, called him "the

" the advocate of the court faction, and I ſuppoſe," he adds, " that his earneſt labours in this vineyard will raiſe " him to a biſhopric." The Dean was actually rouſed into reſentment on this occaſion, and he accordingly publiſhed a letter to Mr. Burke, in which he not only vindicates the purity of his own principles, but retorts upon his adverſary in very forcible and manly terms.

The ground of Mr. Burke's enmity to the Dean, was the latter's ſtrenuous oppoſition to his being elected to repreſent Briſtol in parliament. Dr. Tucker had a high opinion of Lord Nugent's parliamentary conduct and abilities, added to which, he owed him much on the ſcore of gratitude. He therefore conſidered himſelf as bound to ſupport his intereſt in Briſtol, with all the power he poſſeſſed. This excited Mr. Burke's diſlike to the Dean of Glouceſter, and ſharpened his wit on the ſubject of his political opinions.

Our author, however, went on vindicating and enforcing his favourite ſyſtem, in ſpite of all the obloquy with which it was treated both in the ſenate and from the preſs. As the war proceeded, many intelligent perſons began to ſee more truth and reaſon in his ſentiments, and time has at laſt demonſtrated that he was completely in the right. Towards the cloſe of that unhappy conteſt, the Dean aſſumed the appellation of CASSANDRA, alluding to the ill ſucceſs with which his warnings had been attended. This ſignature is found at the end of thoſe hints and ſhort eſſays which he frequently printed in the newſpapers, and which it were to be wiſhed ſome perſon would collect and preſerve, leſt they ſhould ſink into unmerited oblivion.

When the terrors of an invaſion were very prevalent, in 1779, the Dean circulated, in a variety of periodical publications, ſome of the moſt ſenſible obſervations that were ever made on the ſubject, in order to quiet the fears of the people. He ſtates at length, and with great accuracy,

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the numerous difficulties that muſt attend the attempt to invade this country, and the ſtill greater ones that muſt be encountered by the invaders after their landing. Thoſe obſervations have been reprinted, with good effect, in the courſe of the preſent war.

In 1781, the Dean publiſhed, what he had printed long before, "A Treatiſe on Civil Government," in which his principal deſign is to counteract the doctrines of the celebrated Mr. Locke and his followers. The book made a conſiderable noiſe, and was very ſharply attacked by ſeveral able writers on the democratic ſide of the queſtion, particularly by Dr. Towers.

The year following he cloſed his political career with a pamphlet entitled "*Cui Bono?*" in which he balances the profit and loſs of each of the belligerent powers, and recapitulates all his former poſitions on the ſubject of war and colonial poſſeſſions.

His publications ſince that period have conſiſted of ſome tracts on the commercial regulations of Ireland, on the exportation of woollens, and on the iron trade.

In 1777, he publiſhed ſeventeen practical ſermons, in one volume, octavo. In the year 1778, one of his pariſhioners, Miſs Pelloquin, a maiden lady of large fortune and moſt exemplary piety, bequeathed to the Dean her dwelling-houſe in Queen-Square, Briſtol, with a very handſome legacy, as a teſtimony of her great eſteem for his worth and talents.

It ſhould be recorded to his praiſe, that though enjoying but very moderate preferment (for to a man of no paternal eſtate, or other eccleſiaſtical dignity, the Deanery of Glouceſter is no very advantageous ſituation), he has, notwithſtanding, been a liberal benefactor to ſeveral public inſtitutions, and a diſtinguiſhed patron of merit.

The celebrated John Henderſon, of Pembroke college, Oxford, was ſent to the univerſity and ſupported there at the

the Dean's expence, when he had no means whatever of gratifying his ardent deſire for ſtudy.

We ſhall mention another inſtance of generoſity in this place, which reflects the greateſt honour upon the Dean. About the year 1790, he thought of reſigning his rectory in Briſtol, and without communicating his deſign to any other perſon, he applied to the Chancellor, in whoſe gift it is, for leave to quit it in favour of his curate, a moſt deſerving man, with a large family.

His Lordſhip was willing enough that he ſhould give up the living, but he refuſed him the liberty of nominating his ſucceſſor. On this the Dean reſolved to hold the living himſelf, till he could find a fit opportunity to ſucceed in his object. After weighing the matter more deliberately, he communicated his wiſh to his pariſhioners, and adviſed them to draw up a petition to the Chancellor in favour of the curate. This was accordingly done, and ſigned by all of them, without any exception, either on the part of the diſſenters or others.

The Chancellor being touched with this teſtimony of love between a clergyman and his people, yielded at laſt to the application; in conſequence of which the Dean cheerfully reſigned the living to a ſucceſſor well qualified to tread in his ſteps.

Since that time he has reſided chiefly at Glouceſter *, viewing his approaching diſſolution, which in the courſe of nature cannot be far diſtant, with the placid mind of a Chriſtian, conſcious of having done his duty both to GOD and MAN.

* He married a Mrs. Crowe, of that City, in 1781.

Here

Here follows a tolerably correct list of the Dean's works:

THEOLOGICAL AND CONTROVERSIAL.

1. A Sermon, preached before the governors of the infirmary of Briſtol, 1745.

2. Letters in Behalf of the Naturalization of the Jews.

3. Apology for the Church of England, 1772.

4. Six Sermons, 12mo. 1773.

5. Letter to Dr. Kippis, on his Vindication of the Proteſtant diſſenting Miniſters.

6. Two Sermons and Four Tracts.

7. View of the Difficulties of the Trinitarian, Arian, and Socinian Syſtems, and Seventeen Sermons, 1777.

POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL.

8. A Pamphlet on the Turkey Trade.

9. A brief View of the Advantages and Diſadvantages which attend a Trade with France.

10. Reflections on the Expediency of naturalizing foreign Proteſtants, and a Letter to a Friend on the ſame Subject.

11. The Pleas and Arguments of the Mother Country and the Colonies ſtated.

12. A Letter to Mr. Burke.

13. Quere, whether a Connection with, or Separation from, America, would be for national Advantage?

14. Anſwers to Objections againſt the Separation from America.

15. A Treatiſe on Civil Government.

16. *Cui Bono.*

17. Four Letters on National Subjects.

18. Sequel to Sir William Jones on Government.

19. On the Diſpute between Great Britain and Ireland.

20. Several Papers under the ſignature of Caſſandra, &c. on the difficulties attendant on an invaſion.

21. A Treatiſe on Commerce. (Mr. Coxe, in his Life of Sir Robert Walpole, ſays that this was printed, but never publiſhed.)

MISCEL-

MISCELLANEOUS.

22. Directions for Travellers.
23. Cautions againſt the Uſe of Spirituous Liquors.
24. A Tract againſt the Diverſions of Cock-fighting, &c.

W.

ADMIRAL

ADMIRAL LORD VISCOUNT DUNCAN.

WHATEVER may be thought of the origin of the preſent war, or the principles upon which it has been conducted; whatever humiliating ideas may, on ſome grounds, prevail in the minds of Engliſhmen while they are reviewing the hiſtory of this extraordinary and eventful conteſt; —there can ſtill be but one opinion reſpecting the conduct of our naval commanders, in general: and every Britiſh heart muſt glow with rapture at the conſideration, that the honour of the national flag, ſo far from being tarniſhed in a ſingle inſtance, has received greater luſtre than ever diſtinguiſhed it at any former period.

Among the eminent names whom the pen of the hiſtorian will have to dwell upon with peculiar ſatisfaction, when engaged in recording the naval events of the preſent war, that of Adam Lord DUNCAN will be proudly conſpicuous.

This diſtinguiſhed veteran was born at Dundee, in Scotland, July 1ſt, 1731, and was the younger ſon of a very ancient and reputable family, which has for a long ſeries of years held the lordſhip of Lundie in the ſhire of Perth. The family eſtate, the rental of which is about 500*l.* a year, came to Lord Duncan about two years ago, in conſequence of the death of his elder brother, Colonel Duncan.

The younger branches, even of a reſpectable family, have generally to force their way in life by their own merits and exertions. Lord Duncan accordingly owed but little to his relations. He was very early ſent to ſea, a profeſſion which coſts but a trifle in the outſet, and is generally attended with but ſmall expence after the young adventurer is thus diſpoſed of. Much is not known of the admiral's early ſervices; but we are warranted in conjecturing that they muſt have been meritorious, by his attaining to the rank of poſt-

poſt-captain, February 25th, 1761, at which time he was appointed to the command of the Valiant. About this period, he was honoured with the friendſhip of that gallant officer of the old ſchool, Lord Keppel, and was with him at the taking of the Havannah; and when Keppel was appointed to a flag, he choſe Duncan to be his captain.

He was alſo a member of the court-martial which ſat upon the trial of that diſtinguiſhed veteran; and continued attached to him by the ſtrongeſt ties of intimacy and friendſhip, till his death.

On September 24th, 1787, he was made a rear-admiral; in 1793, he was promoted to the rank of vice-admiral; and in 1795, he became admiral of the blue.

Hitherto he had moved on in his profeſſion regularly, but with little notice, for it had not been his lot to get employed on any ſervice that was likely to bring him forward to the public view.

His appointment, at laſt, to that ſtation, in which he has all at once obtained laurels equal to thoſe which adorn the brows of men who have been more extenſively employed, ſeems to have been owing to his relationſhip to Mr. Secretary Dundas, whoſe niece he married, and by whom he has ſeveral children.

This alliance procured for him an appointment which it was underſtood he was beſt fitted for, the North Sea ſtation. Nor does it at all reflect upon his Lordſhip to ſay, that his circumſtances ſtood in need of being thus employed. With hardly any other fortune than half-pay as an Admiral, it was natural enough for him to be anxious to get engaged in active ſervice, for the benefit of a wife and children whom he loved. The ſcene of action which he choſe was an arduous one. The ſeverity of the winter ſeaſon, in that ſea, muſt alſo have been very trying to a man of his Lordſhip's time of life. Moreover he had to encounter

encounter with difficulties ſtill more troubleſome and painful to a Britiſh officer: we allude to the mutinous ſpirit which prevailed in his fleet, in common with the other naval ſquadrons in the Channel.

In the midſt of all theſe unpleaſant circumſtances, his Lordſhip manifeſted a cool and ſteady mind. He kept his ſtation with ſuch perſevering ardour, in the moſt boiſterous ſeaſon of the year, that the enemy could not by any means effect their deſign of eſcaping from their ports. The indefatigable Admiral continued blockading them, either with the whole, or part of his ſquadron, till the ſummer of 1797, when the mutiny raged in his fleet in a moſt alarming manner. Even when he was left with only three ſhips, he ſtill remained firm in his ſtation off the Texel, and ſucceeded in keeping the Dutch ſhips from proceeding to ſea; a circumſtance, in all probability, of as high conſequence to the nation as his ſubſequent victory.

His behaviour at the time of the mutiny, will beſt be ſeen from the ſpeech which he made to the crew of his own ſhip, on June 3d, 1797, and which, as a piece of artleſs and affecting oratory, cannot but be admired by the moſt faſtidious taſte. His men being aſſembled, the Admiral thus addreſſed them from the quarter deck:

"My lads—I once more call you together, with a ſor-
"rowful heart, from what I have lately ſeen—the diſaf-
"fection of the fleets; I call it *diſaffection*, for the crews
"have *no grievances*. To be deſerted by my fleet, in the
"face of an enemy, is a diſgrace which I believe never
"before happened to a Britiſh Admiral: nor could I have
"ſuppoſed it poſſible. My greateſt comfort under God is,
"that I have been ſupported by the officers, ſeamen, and
"marines of *this ſhip*; for which, with a heart over-
"flowing with gratitude, I requeſt you to accept my ſin-
"cere thanks.

"I flatter

" I flatter myſelf much good may reſult from your ex-
" ample, by bringing thoſe deluded people to a ſenſe of
" the duty which they owe, not only to their King and
" Country, but to themſelves. The Britiſh Navy has
" ever been the ſupport of that Liberty which has been
" handed down for us by our anceſtors, and which, I
" truſt, we ſhall maintain to the lateſt poſterity; and that
" can only be done by unanimity and obedience.

" This ſhip's company, and others who have diſtin-
" guiſhed themſelves by their loyalty and good order, de-
" ſerve to be, and doubtleſs *will be*, the favourites of a
" grateful country; they will alſo have from their inward
" feelings a comfort which muſt be laſting, and not like
" the fleeting and falſe confidence of thoſe who have
" ſwerved from their duty!

" It has often been my pride with you to look into the
" Texel, and ſee a foe which dreaded coming out to
" meet us.—My pride is *now* humbled indeed!—My
" feelings are not eaſily to be expreſſed!—Our cup has
" overflowed, and made us wanton. The all-wiſe PRO-
" VIDENCE has given us this check as a warning, and I
" hope we ſhall improve by it. On Him, then, let us
" truſt, where our *only* ſecurity can be found.

" I find there are many good men among us; for my
" own part, I have had full confidence of all in this ſhip;
" and once more beg to expreſs my approbation of your
" conduct.

" May GOD, who thus far conducted you, continue
" to do ſo; and may the Britiſh Navy, the glory and
" ſupport of our country, be reſtored to its wonted ſplen-
" dour, and be not only the bulwark of Britain, but the
" terror of the world. But this can only be effected by
" a ſtrict adherence to our duty and obedience; and let
" us pray that the Almighty GOD may keep us in the
" right way of thinking. GOD bleſs you all!"

The

The crew of the Venerable were ſo affected by this impreſſive addreſs, that on retiring there was not a dry eye among them.

On the ſuppreſſion of the mutiny, the Admiral reſumed his ſtation with his whole fleet off the coaſt of Holland, either to keep the Dutch ſquadron in the Texel, or to attack them if they ſhould attempt to come out. It has ſince been diſcovered, that the object of the Batavian Republic, in conjunction with France, was to invade Ireland, where doubtleſs they would have been cordially welcomed by numerous bodies of the diſaffected. Hence it will be ſeen, that the object of watching and checking the motions of the Dutch Admiral was of the utmoſt conſequence.

After a long and very vigilant attention to the important truſt repoſed in him, the Engliſh Admiral was neceſſitated to repair to Yarmouth-roads to refit. The Batavian commander ſeized this favourable interval, and proceeded to ſea. That active officer, Capt. Trollope, however was upon the look-out, and having diſcovered the enemy, immediately diſpatched a veſſel with the glad intelligence to Admiral Duncan, who loſt not an inſtant of time, but puſhed out at once, and in the morning of the 11th of October, fell in with Capt. Trollope's ſquadron of obſervations, with the ſignal flying for an enemy to the leeward.

By a maſterly manœuvre, the Admiral placed himſelf between them and the Texel, ſo as to prevent them from re-entering without riſking an engagement. An action accordingly took place between Camperdown and Egmont, in nine fathoms water, and within five miles of the coaſt. The Admiral's own ſhip, in purſuance of a plan of naval evolution which he had long before determined to carry into effect, broke the enemy's line, and cloſely engaged the Dutch Admiral de Winter, who, after a moſt gallant defence, was obliged to ſtrike. Eight ſhips were taken, two of which carried flags!

All circumſtances conſidered—the time of the year, the force of the enemy, and the nearneſs to a dangerous ſhore —this action will be pronounced by every judge of nautical affairs, to be one of the moſt brilliant that graces our annals.

The nation was fully ſenſible of the merit and conſequence of this glorious victory: politicians beheld in it the annihilation of the deſigns of our combined enemies; naval men admired the addreſs and ſkill which were diſplayed by the Engliſh commander in his approaches to the attack; and the people at large were tranſported with admiration, joy, and gratitude.

The honours which were inſtantly conferred upon the VENERABLE Admiral, received the approbation of men of all parties. October 21ſt, 1797, he was created Lord Viſcount Duncan of Camperdown, and Baron Duncan of Lundie in the ſhire of Perth. On his being introduced into the Houſe of Peers, on November the 8th, the Lord Chancellor communicated to him the thanks of the Houſe, and in his ſpeech ſaid: "He congratulated his Lordſhip "upon his acceſſion to the honour of a diſtinguiſhed ſeat "in that place, to which his very meritorious and *unpa-* "*ralleled* profeſſional conduct had deſervedly raiſed him; "that conduct (the Chancellor added) was ſuch as not "only merited the thanks of their Lordſhips' Houſe, "but the gratitude and applauſe of the Country at large: "it had been inſtrumental, under the auſpices of Provi- "dence, in eſtabliſhing the ſecurity of his Majeſty's domi- "nions, and fruſtrating the ambitious and deſtructive de- "ſigns of the enemy."

In the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament, a penſion of 2000*l. per annum* was granted to his Lordſhip, for himſelf and the two next heirs to the peerage.

In perſon, Lord Duncan is of a manly, athletic form, ſix feet three inches high, erect and graceful, with a countenance that indicates great intelligence and benevolence.

His

His private character is that of a moſt affectionate relative, a ſteady friend, and, what crowns the whole with a luſtre ſuperior to all other qualities or diſtinctions, he is a man of great and unaffected piety.

The latter virtue may excite in ſome perſons a ſmile of contempt; but the liberal-minded will be pleaſed to read that Lord Duncan feels it an honour to be a Chriſtian.

He encourages religion by his own practice; and the public obſervance of it has been always kept up where he has held the command.

When the victory was decided, which has immortalized his name, his Lordſhip ordered the crew of his ſhip to be called together, and at their head, upon his bended knees, in the preſence of the Dutch Admiral, who was greatly affected with the ſcene, he ſolemnly and pathetically offered up praiſe to the GOD OF BATTLES!

Let it be added here, that his demeanour, when all eyes were upon him, in the cathedral of St. Paul's, on the day of general thankſgiving, was ſo humble, modeſt, and devout, as greatly to increaſe that admiration which his ſervices had procured him.

In ſhort, Lord Duncan is one more inſtance of the truth of the aſſertion, that piety and courage are inſeparably allied; and that the latter quality, without the former, loſes its principal virtue.

ΧΑΣ

DR. SAMUEL HORSLEY,

LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

OF all the right reverend members of the epiſcopal bench, no one has obtained more celebrity than this learned prelate.

We are well aware, that a Biſhop who has ſo greatly diſtinguiſhed himſelf in political, as well as theological, controverſy, will be regarded by different men with very oppoſite ſentiments. Our aim, however, has no excluſive reference to either of theſe objects; and therefore we ſhall ſtudy to give a faithful delineation of the character before us, without the ſlighteſt attention to the ſpirit of party, whether that party be of a religious or political complexion.

Dr. Samuel Horſley is the eldeſt of the three ſons of the Rev. Mr. Horſley, formerly miniſter of St. Martin's in the Fields. The grandfather of the Biſhop was bred a diſſenting divine, but he afterwards thought proper to conform to the eſtabliſhment.

His Lordſhip was born about the year 1737, and received the ground-work of his education at Weſtminſter ſchool, whence he was removed to the Univerſity of Cambridge.

He applied himſelf, while there, chiefly to the ſtudy of mathematics; and not content with carefully reading the writings of the acuteſt of the moderns of that line, he went back to the profoundeſt of the ancients, and made himſelf thoroughly maſter of their moſt intricate reaſonings.

Having taken his degree of Maſter of Arts, he accepted an invitation to go to Oxford, as private tutor to the preſent

ſent Earl of Aylesford. From that Univerſity he received a degree of Doctor of Laws, and in 1769 printed at the Clarendon preſs, his edition of the Inclinations of Apollonius, a geometrical work of conſiderable value, though exceedingly abſtruſe. Previous to his time, mathematical learning had been in little repute at Oxford; but ſince that period it has grown into faſhion there, ſo that this Univerſity can hardly be ſaid to fall ſhort of her ſiſter, in that great branch of human knowledge.

Here our author firſt conceived the deſign of publiſhing a complete edition of the works of Sir Iſaac Newton; to which end he began to collect the neceſſary materials.

On leaving the Univerſity, Dr. Horſley came to London, where he was elected fellow of the Royal Society, of which he was alſo choſen ſecretary in 1773. He continued to ſerve that office, with the greateſt credit to himſelf, as well as benefit to the ſcientific world, till the reſignation of the late preſident, Sir John Pringle, when finding that the *connoiſſeurs* and *virtuoſi* were gaining ground, he retired.

Soon after his ſettling in the metropolis, Dr. Horſley was noticed by that obſerving and excellent prelate, Biſhop Lowth, who invited him to become his domeſtic chaplain. It is ſomewhat remarkable, that at this time he was ſuſpected of not being quite orthodox in his theological ſentiments, and thoſe who pretended to ſmell hereſy in him, wondered at Biſhop Lowth's taking him under his patronage. The only grounds for this ſuſpicion, were his being a profound mathematician, and his cloſe intimacy with Dr. Maty and other men of ſcience, who were avowed Socinians.

In 1774, Biſhop Lowth preſented him to the rectories of St. Mary Newington and Albury, both in the county of Surrey; and in the courſe of the ſame year he married a Miſs Botnam.

In

In 1776, he publiſhed propoſals for a complete and elegant edition of the works of the immortal Newton, which appeared in 1779, in five volumes quarto, with an excellent dedication to the king in Latin.

It was expected that a large memoir reſpecting the Prince of Philoſophers would have been prefixed to this edition; and conſiderable diſappointment was of courſe experienced by the public, when nothing of this kind appeared. Certain it is, that the learned editor gave room for this expectation, and had actually made ſome progreſs in the life. He moreover had converſed with Dr. Johnſon upon the ſubject, who adviſed him to write it in Latin, as beſt ſuited to the dignity of the character. This biographical *deſideratum*, however, has not yet made its appearance; and we are apprehenſive that it never will.

In 1778, when the controverſy was on foot between Drs. Prieſtley, Price, and others, reſpecting materialiſm, and philoſophical neceſſity, Dr. Horſley preached a ſermon on Good Friday at St. Paul's Cathedral, which he afterwards publiſhed. In this ingenious diſcourſe he reconciles, with much force of argument, the doctrine of divine Providence with the free agency of man, and combats the neceſſarian hypotheſis with great, and, in the opinion of his friends, complete ſucceſs.

About this time he was appointed Archdeacon of St. Albans, by Biſhop Lowth, who alſo preſented him to the valuable living of South Weald in Eſſex.

In 1783 Dr. Prieſtley publiſhed his celebrated work the "Hiſtory of the Corruptions of Chriſtianity." It need hardly be mentioned, that the principal deſign of this work was to overthrow the catholic doctrine reſpecting Chriſt's divinity.

Great was the triumph manifeſted by the unitarian party on the publication of this elaborate hiſtory. The outcry made by them on the occaſion, naturally rouſed the attention

tion of thoſe who adhered to the Orthodox confeſſion, and Dr. Horſley ſeized this opportunity of ſhewing, not only the ſoundneſs of his faith, but his abilities for the moſt intricate branches of theological controverſy.

In the ſummer of this year, he delivered to the clergy of the Archdeaconry of St. Albans a charge, in which he expreſsly controverted the Socinian poſition—that the doctrine of the Trinity was not maintained by the Chriſtian church in the firſt three centuries; and he not only gave a flat contradiction to Dr. Prieſtley's aſſertion on this point, but charged him with having taken, without acknowledgement, the whole of his argument from Zwicker and other eminent Socinians of the laſt century.

This diſcourſe, at the requeſt of his reverend auditory, was printed, with an appendix, explaining and confirming the poſitions which it contained.

Dr. Prieſtley, whoſe pen is that of a ready writer, was not to be daunted at meeting with ſo formidable an antagoniſt; on the contrary, he ruſhed at once into the battle, with the impetuoſity of a man who ſeemed to place all his reputation, as a combatant, upon the event of this conteſt. He, of courſe, inſtantly replied to the Archdeacon, in a ſeries of letters, which contained all his former aſſertions, expreſſed in a more confident tone than before. Dr. Horſley was aware of the advantage which the precipitancy of his opponent had given him, and, therefore, in his anſwer, which was alſo in the epiſtolary form, he noticed the frequent ſlips in Greek quotation, and reference, which the Doctor had made; and with great adroitneſs, left it to the reader to judge, whether ſo haſty and incautious an hiſtorian was to be depended upon in a matter of ſuch importance.

But he did not merely expoſe the Doctor's miſtakes. He followed up the attack by numerous proofs in behalf of the common belief, drawn from the early fathers of the church and the pureſt eccleſiaſtical hiſtorians. The diſplay of reading

ing and acute reſearch in theſe letters is wonderful. The ſtyle alſo is admirable; and though at times it aſſumes a lofty manner, yet the reader of taſte finds himſelf charmed with the elegance of the language, and the cloſeneſs of the reaſoning.

Dr. Prieſtley continued the combat, by another ſeries of letters, to which the Archdeacon again replied. The controverſy here cloſed on the part of the latter, who ſignified that it was an endleſs taſk to contend upon an exhauſted topic, with one who was never diſpoſed to ceaſe diſputing till he had obtained the laſt word. In 1789, Dr. Horſley collected theſe tracts, and printed them in one volume octavo, with ſome additions, particularly a ſermon on the incarnation, preached at Newington, on Chriſtmas-day, 1785, and which having a material relation to the controverſy in queſtion, he thought proper to inſert in this collection.

While this diſpute was going on, our learned divine was engaged in another, which made nearly as much noiſe as the firſt, at leaſt in the ſcientific world. When Sir Joſeph Banks came in as preſident of the Royal Society, on the reſignation of Sir John Pringle, the mathematical and philoſophical members of the Newtonian ſchool were diſguſted at the extraordinary preference which was ſhewn to ſubjects, as they conceived, of an inferior nature, to thoſe which ought in their opinion to engage the firſt learned ſociety in the world. It has been ſaid, that cabals were formed by thoſe members of the old ſtamp againſt the preſident and his friends; but of this no proof was ever brought forward.

In 1784 the latter ventured upon a ſtep which could not fail to fan the ſmothering flame into a blaze. The council thought proper to diſmiſs the learned Doctor Hutton from the office of Latin ſecretary for foreign correſpondence, upon the very frivolous pretence, that it was improper ſuch

a poſt

a poſt ſhould be filled by a perſon who did not reſide in the metropolis. The ſcientific members took fire at this treatment of one of the ableſt and moſt reſpectable of their body. Accordingly, in ſeveral meetings of the ſociety, attempts were made to leſſen the influence of the preſident *, and to reinſtate Dr. Hutton in his place, but without ſucceſs. In this conteſt between philoſophy and the *virtuoſi*, Dr. Horſley made the moſt conſpicuous figure. Finding, however, that his labours and thoſe of his learned aſſociates were in vain, he forſook (to expreſs it in his own forcible language) "that temple, where Philoſophy once reigned, "and where NEWTON preſided as her officiating miniſter."

In 1786 Dr. Horſley obtained, without either ſolicitation or even expectancy, a prebend in the cathedral church of Glouceſter. His friend on this occaſion was Lord Thurlow, then Chancellor; who, without being perſonally known to Dr. H. or receiving any application on his behalf, reſiſted every requeſt that was made for this valuable preferment, and beſtowed it upon the man whom he juſtly conſidered as having merited it the moſt of any divine in this age.

During the year following, the Doctor preached an ordination ſermon in the cathedral of Glouceſter, in which he maintained with great ſtrength this poſition—that on the ceſſation of miraculous gifts, human learning is ſubſtituted by divine appointment, as an eſſential qualification for the chriſtian miniſtry. At the command of the venerable prelate before whom it was delivered (Doctor Samuel Halifax) this ingenious diſcourſe was ſoon after printed; and excited conſiderable notice, and ſome controverſy.

Next year Dr. Horſley was elevated to the epiſcopal bench, on the tranſlation of Dr. Smallwell from the ſee of St. David to that of Oxford. Lord Thurlow, on this occaſion, was again his ſteady and unſolicited patron; and it is

* Sir Joſeph was accuſed, in an able pamphlet of that day, of taking very improper means to obtain the admiſſion or rejection of candidates.

well

well known that he made it a point to bring in his friend, in oppoſition to candidates who were backed by all the force of miniſterial influence.

Soon after his admiſſion to the Houſe of Lords, Dr. Horſley had an opportunity of diſplaying his eloquence and learning, which he did to great advantage, on Earl Stanhope's motion for a reviſion and reform of the canons of the church. His ſpeech on this occaſion afforded uncommon pleaſure to the houſe; and what was rather remarkable, drew from the noble Earl juſt mentioned a very liberal encomium.

On the great ſtruggle made by the proteſtant diſſenters in 1790, to obtain a repeal of the Corporation and Teſt acts, a pamphlet appeared, entitled "a Review of the Caſe of the Proteſtant Diſſenters," which was written with ſuch boldneſs and elegance on the High Church ſide, that, though anonymous, all parties concurred in attributing it to the Biſhop of St. David's; nor in fact were they wrong in their conjecture.

The year following, he made a conſpicuous figure in conſequence of his primary charge to the clergy of his dioceſe; in this he maintained the old-faſhioned doctrine of *juſtification by faith alone*, and preſſed it home upon his hearers, that the too common practice of preaching mere *morality* was deſtructive of vital religion.

This charge, of a complexion ſo very different from what had been uſually delivered in cathedral churches, attracted conſiderable notice. Thoſe who were attached to the Calviniſtic principles, or, as they are commonly called, Evangelical Chriſtians, were enraptured with the ſentiments conveyed in this diſcourſe. Others, on the contrary, conceived that the Biſhop had miſtaken the doctrine of the goſpel, on the ſubject of juſtification; while the Unitarians were extremely irritated at the harſh terms in which his Lordſhip had mentioned their ſect and creed

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in his charge. Several replies were accordingly publiſhed to it; but the learned prelate ſeemed to conſider himſelf ſuperior to the adverſaries who wiſhed to provoke him again into controverſy.

His conduct in the ſee of St. David's is highly praiſeworthy. Of all the biſhoprics, no one exhibited more poverty, or more ignorance, on the part of the clergy, than this. Many of the curacies, when his lordſhip entered upon the government of this extenſive dioceſe, did not exceed ten pounds *per annum*, and ſome of the churches were actually ſerved for five! It may eaſily be concluded what ſort of divines a great part of theſe poor miniſters were, under ſuch circumſtances. What was ſtill worſe, the multitude of candidates for orders increaſed yearly, ſo that Wales poured her ſuperfluous clergy into England, to the diſgrace of the cloth, and the real injury of ſuch as were regularly bred. The writer of this has no inclination to ſport himſelf at the expence of any body of men; but he could entertain the reader with many whimſical anecdotes reſpecting the learning and ingenuity of the Welch clergy. A reform was, therefore, neceſſary, but to accompliſh it required a ſtrong and perſevering mind.

Our indefatigable prelate was not to be daunted by any obſtacles. He obtained, with the greateſt poſſible diſpatch, an accurate and minute ſtate of his dioceſe. He then gave notice to the beneficed clergy, who did not reſide, that they would be compelled to reſidence, or to allow their curates a more liberal ſalary. By this means, he remedied that ſhameful abuſe, of one man's ſerving ſeveral churches on the ſame day; limiting a curate to two only, and thoſe within a moderate diſtance from each other.

Having regulated the condition of the clergy, he proceeded to a ſtricter courſe, with reſpect to candidates for holy orders, admitting none without perſonally examining them

them himself, and looking very narrowly into the titles which they produced.

With all this vigilance, his Lordship acted to them as a tender father, encouraging them to visit him during his stay in the country, which was usually for several months in the year, assisting them with advice, and administering to their temporal necessities with a liberal and paternal hand.

In his progress through the diocese he frequently preached in the parish churches, especially on the days when the sacrament was administered, and bestowed considerable largesses upon the poor.

He kept a most hospitable table at his episcopal palace, at Aberguilly, near Caermarthen, to which the neighbouring gentry and clergy were always welcome. In short, he was a blessing to that poor people; and they followed him with grateful hearts, and parted from him with infinite reluctance. This is not an ideal picture: it is a true but imperfect sketch of actual life; and such as the feeble painter had opportunities of seeing more than once.

On January 30th, 1793, the bishop of St. David's was appointed to preach before the House of Lords, and as the recent murder of the king of France was the general topic of conversation and pity, the abbey was greatly crowded. That discourse is in print; and whatever may be thought of the notions on government, which distinguish it, there can be but one opinion concerning its very beautiful and pathetic peroration. When published, the bishop appended to his sermon a long vindication of the character of Calvin, from the charge of being a friend to rebellion and regicide.

The following year he was translated, on the death of Bishop Pearce, from St. David's to Rochester, on which occasion he resigned all his other church preferments.

When

When he entered upon his office as Dean of Weſtminſter, he found many things in the condition of that church which ſtood in great need of reformation; and with his uſual activity, he inſtantly ſet about the work. In particular, the ſalaries of the minor-canons and officers were extremely low, and by no means proportionate. With a moſt commendable ſpirit of liberality, therefore, he obtained an inſtant advance, and then began to regulate the conduct and duty of the perſons whom he had ſo materially aſſiſted. Had he, on the contrary, ſet about a more exact diſcipline, without attending to the neceſſities of theſe men, they would, perhaps, have juſtly conſidered him as a ſevere taſkmaſter, and murmured at his regulations. By this mode of conduct, he gained their eſteem and gratitude; and it may ſafely be ſaid, that no man ever filled that ſtation with ſuch popularity as the preſent dean.

In the career of politics, his popularity, perhaps, is not quite ſo great. The zeal which he diſplays in the agitation of public meaſures, and the promptneſs with which he expreſſes his ſentiments on the ſide of the eſtabliſhed order of things, civil and religious, have procured him many enemies. Without endeavouring to extenuate any thing in his conduct that is reprehenſible, let it be permitted for us to ſay, that his language has been often greatly miſrepreſented, and been made by his adverſaries to expreſs a meaning which the right reverend prelate holds in abhorrence. He has been too apt to expreſs his ſentiments in abſtract propoſitions, which may be made, by artful men, to ſignify what never entered into his lordſhip's mind. Were we to act ſo generouſly, as to put the beſt conſtruction upon his obſervations, and that certainly ought to be done, unleſs his own explanation proved deciſive, in all probability, we ſhould find here leſs occaſion for cenſure, and more for commendation.

But

But to leave his political reputation to its fate. In 1796, he printed, without his name, a moſt profound and elegant diſſertation on "the Latin and Greek Proſodies," dedicated to Lord Thurlow. In this learned performance he ſhews an uncommon depth of penetration into, and acquaintance with, the nature and conſtruction of the ancient languages; and approves himſelf a moſt powerful, though perhaps not an invincible advocate for the uſe of the Greek accents.

We underſtand that this zealous and active prelate is now deeply engaged in a work upon the prophecies of the Old and New Teſtament; and from his known powers, as a profound thinker and calculator, there can be no doubt entertained of the value of his performance, ſhould he, as it is to be hoped he will, favour the world with the fruits of his reſearches.

Beſides the works already mentioned, biſhop Horſley is the author of ſome ingenious papers on mathematical ſubjects, various ſermons on public occaſions, and ſeveral epiſcopal charges.

He has been twice married. By his firſt lady he had two children; one only of whom is living, who is at preſent at Chriſt-church college, Oxford.

Θ

JUDGE

JUDGE BULLER.

SIR FRANCIS BULLER is the eldeſt ſon of the late John Buller, Eſq. of Morval, in the county of Cornwall. The extenſive parliamentary intereſt of his family is well known; this, joined to his own abilities, could not fail to raiſe him, early in life, to an eminent rank in his profeſſion.

After being educated at Wincheſter ſchool, he was called to the bar in the year 1763, and brought into parliament ſoon after. This with a lawyer is generally a prelude to a ſilk gown, but it was not immediately obtained. His profeſſional *debut* did not promiſe much eminence, for he commenced his career as a ſpecial pleader, having ſtudied the practical part of this dull but neceſſary branch of legal ſcience under the preſent Judge Aſhurſt, and like his precurſor he was always ranked among the moſt eminent in that particular line. This character, accordingly, ſoon brought him into great repute as a common-law draughtſman; and Erſkine, after having laid by his ſword, firſt brandiſhed a pen at his deſk.

His practice at the bar was, at the ſame time, very conſiderable.

In 1772, Mr. Buller publiſhed "An Introduction to the Law of NISI PRIUS," which is a *noli me tangere* of its kind, and will long continue to enjoy a high degree of eſtimation; indeed, in every thing that did not require an appeal to the paſſions, he ſhewed himſelf a maſter: then only he failed! His eloquence, as a counſel, was neither pleaſing nor powerful, but on the other hand, few judges deliver themſelves with more propriety than him; his language being dignified, and his manner, perhaps, ſomewhat too authoritative. This affords a proof that the oratory ſuited for the bar, is eſſentially different from that adapted for the bench.

The *borough* intereſt of his family, added to a matrimonial alliance with that of the late Earl Bathurſt, at length procured

cured him a ſilk gown, the place of a Welch judge, and even elevated him to the coif, while yet a very young man. He was accordingly called to the degree of ſergeant at law, on being appointed one of the juſtices of the court of King's Bench.

In this capacity his abilities had full play, as he poſſeſſes great quickneſs of perception, readily foreſees the conſequences of facts, and anticipates the drift of an argument at the firſt glance; but, like the great lawyer whom he has been ambitious of copying, he is ſometimes rather too haſty in drawing his concluſions.

As ſoon as he aſſumed the ermine, he inſtantly attracted the particular attention of Lord Mansfield, and although the youngeſt judge that ever was promoted to the bench, yet his opinion had always more influence with the Chief Juſtice than that of any of his colleagues.

Our Judge has alſo at times been accuſed of ſomewhat bordering on petulance of diſpoſition, which has led him into rather unpleaſant altercations. An inſtance of this occurred at the famous trial of the Dean of St. Aſaph, when, after puſhing his oppoſition to his quondam pupil, Mr. Erſkine, to threats and defiance, he at length ſuffered him to ſet his authority at nought, and even allowed him to proceed in the interrogatories the Judge had ſo ſtrenuouſly oppoſed.

When Lord Mansfield was about to retire, he exerted the remains of his once-powerful intereſt to procure the nomination of Buller to ſucceed him, and is even ſaid to have retained his poſt, on that very account, ſome time after he had been diſabled by his infirmities from performing its duties.

Some time ſince Sir Francis exhibited a wiſh to retire from the King's Bench, and propoſed an exchange for a ſeat in the Common Pleas, but difficulties then occurred, which deferred the accompliſhment of his wiſhes. He was then ſecond on the Bench, and had he removed during the

the life of Judge Gould, he muſt have ſat as third only in the Common Pleas; but on the death of that truly venerable and honeſt man, he had his wiſh gratified, by a removal from the ſuppoſed object of his diſpleaſure.

He was lately placed at the head of the Special Commiſſion for trying the ſtate priſoners at Maidſtone, and he muſt be allowed by all candid men to have conducted himſelf with great impartiality. A circumſtance happened on this occaſion which gave the judge an opportunity to ſhew his impartiality to great advantage; we mean the diſcovery of the letter written by the Rev. Mr. Younge, ſon of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture; of which we ſhall not ſay a ſingle word, as he is now under proſecution by the Attorney General.

The compliments paid by the judge to Mr. Fox, the Duke of Norfolk, Lord Suffolk, and other noblemen and gentlemen in Oppoſition, have drawn down upon his head the abuſe of ſome of the Miniſterial papers; and by a ſtrange fatality, the great lawyer, formerly ſuſpected of leaning towards deſpotiſm, is conſidered by them as at preſent too little attached to prerogative.

Sir Francis reſides at his country-ſeat in a manner worthy the imitation of his brethren of the long robe. Unbending from the reſtraint of the coif, he lives without oſtentation; but his table is a hoſpitable one, and he pays every attention to his gueſts. Gay, facetious, liberal in his converſation and opinions, he deſpiſes the petty prejudices of the day, and proves that he has conſidered mankind, rather in the character of a philoſopher than a lawyer.

Much to his honour he has improved great portions of the waſte land in his neighbourhood, and when theſe are brought into a ſtate of cultivation, he builds cottages, and portions them out into little farms, at eaſy rents.

Thus, while he is benefiting the preſent age, he is alſo creating a noble fortune for his poſterity!

JOHN WOLCOTT, M.D.

THIS gentleman, better known by his poetical appellation of *Peter Pindar*, is a native of that part of Devonſhire which has been called the Garden of England. He was educated, we believe, at Kingſbridge, near which he was born. The ſchoolmaſter of that town, an exceeding good ſcholar, and a man of moſt amiable manners, was a quaker.

The uncle of our bard being a ſingle man, and eſtabliſhed at Fowey, in Cornwall, as an Apothecary, took his nephew when young, with a view to his ſucceeding him in his buſineſs. Here he acquired a tolerable ſhare of medical knowledge: and was in great eſteem with his kinſman, and the neighbourhood. At his leiſure hours he cultivated his mind by the peruſal of the beſt modern writers; and improved himſelf conſiderably in the art of drawing, to which he ſhewed an early propenſity.

On the appointment of Sir William Trelawney to be Governor of Jamaica, about the year 1769, Mr. Wolcott felt a ſtrong inclination to accompany him, eſpecially as that gentleman was a diſtant relation of his own, and a great friend to the family. He accordingly preſſed his uncle not only to give his aſſent to the project, but alſo to ſolicit the favour from Sir William.

The old gentleman was at firſt extremely concerned at this turn in his nephew's mind. It was a complete overthrow of his favourite ſcheme reſpecting him, and it was moreover depriving himſelf of a moſt uſeful aſſiſtant. Remonſtrances however were vain; and therefore, with the greateſt good nature, he waited upon the governor, and obtained the favour that the young adventurer ſhould make one in his ſuite.

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In the voyage the ſhip touched at Madeira, where Peter, enchanted with the beauties which Nature ſo luxuriantly exhibits in that iſland, wrote ſome exquiſite ſonnets. On his arrival at Jamaica, he commenced ſurgeon, with which he blended the practice of his phyſic, and was actually nominated Phyſician General to the iſland. A circumſtance however occurred that diverted him for ſome time from his medical career, and threw him into the arms of a profeſſion for which few men were leſs qualified.

The incumbent of the moſt valuable living in Jamaica happened to pay the laſt tribute to nature long after the Doctor ſettled there. Whether his practice had not been ſufficiently lucrative, or what other motive poſſeſſed him, we know not, but certain it is, he looked upon the vacant rectory with a wiſhful eye. As there was no clergyman at hand to ſupply the place of the deceaſed, the phyſician of the body commenced phyſician of the ſoul, and actually officiated for a conſiderable time in this capacity, reading the prayers of the church of England, and preaching occaſionally.

Fearing, at length, that he ſhould be ſuperſeded, by a regular miniſter properly inſtituted to the living, the Doctor ſet out for England, carrying with him ſtrong letters of recommendation to the Biſhop of London, that he might not only be ordained but alſo be appointed to the church which he had ſerved.

But though his application was backed pretty ſtrongly by ſome very conſiderable friends in England, the Biſhop refuſed to admit him, on the ground, we believe, of his having preſumed to perform the miniſterial duties without being properly licenſed thereto.

In conſequence of this diſappointment, the Doctor declined reviſiting his patients and pariſhioners in the Weſt Indies; but having previouſly obtained the degree of M.D.

from one of the Scotch univerſities, he went down to the place of his former reſidence, and after living there ſome time, removed to Truro, where he practiſed for ſeveral years as a phyſician, with great credit and ſucceſs. About this time his uncle died, and left him nearly 2000*l.*

The doctor's ſatirical vein ſhewed itſelf on various occaſions in Cornwall; particularly in ſome humorous jokes, which he played off upon the late Mr. Roſewarne, of Truro, and other gentlemen of the neighbourhood. He was alſo engaged in ſome troubleſome and expenſive lawſuits; one of which was with the corporation of Truro, relative to their right of putting upon him a pariſh apprentice. In conſequence of theſe diſputes, he found that part of the world diſagreeable, and therefore reſolved to quit it for a ſphere more congenial to his talents and diſpoſition.

During his reſidence in this county, the Doctor had an opportunity of bringing forward to the world an eminent natural genius, who otherwiſe might have been buried in total oblivion, or at the moſt have been a ſign-painter in his native country. The perſon we allude to was JOHN OPIE, whoſe rude drawings in common chalk, eſpecially likeneſſes, our Doctor viewed with ſome curioſity and admiration in his rides through the village of St. Anne, where Opie was a pariſh apprentice to one Wheeler, a houſe carpenter.

Theſe drawings were ſo ſuperior to what could be expected in ſuch a place, and from ſuch a perſon, that the phyſician was induced to become his inſtructor and his patron. He accordingly furniſhed him with materials, and gave him leſſons, by which he profited in a manner that ſurpriſed and delighted the benevolent tutor. Having made a rapid progreſs, Opie went to Exeter, where he acquired ſome knowledge of oil painting. From that city he removed to London, and under Sir Joſhua Reynolds became one of the moſt eminent artiſts of the age.

We are ſorry to remark, however, that a violent miſunderſtanding took place during ſome years between the doctor

doctor and his pupil, and from what we can learn, the cauſe originated in the forgetfulneſs with which the latter affected to treat his obligations to the former.

Of the Doctor's poetical productions while he was engaged in the practice of phyſic, we have ſeen only one ſpecimen; but that is an excellent one, and we truſt our readers will be pleaſed with us for inſerting it in this place.

In the year 1776, when Mr. Polwhele, well known by his various publications, was at Truro-ſchool, he had given to him for an evening exerciſe, to be tranſlated into Engliſh, the following beautiful Latin Epigram on ſleep:

Somne levis, quamquem certiſſima mortis imago,
Conſortem cupio te, tamen eſſe tori:
Alma quies, optata veni; nam, ſic, ſine vitâ
Vivere, quam ſuave eſt; ſic, ſine morte, mori.

Of this epigram the doctor was requeſted to give a tranſlation, which he produced in a few minutes as follows:

Come, gentle ſleep, attend thy vot'ry's prayer,
And tho' death's image to my couch repair,
How ſweet, thus lifeleſs, yet with life to lie,
Thus, without dying, O how ſweet to die!

Our author's firſt literary production was an "*Epiſtle to the Reviewers*," 4to. 1782, a truly laughable piece of ſatire, and certainly diſcharged againſt fair game. His next performance was "*Lyric Odes to the Royal Academicians*," 1785, in which is a happy mixture of wit, taſte, and elegance, but at the ſame time it muſt be allowed, that a want of candour diſtinguiſhes the criticiſms, and particularly with reſpect to the paintings of Mr. Weſt.

In the year following, he publiſhed another ſet of odes to the members of the Royal Academy, bearing the ſame characteriſtics. About the ſame time he produced a performance of more originality and boldneſs. This was the *Louſiad*, a mock heroic poem, abounding in wit, humour, and ſtrength.

The foundation on which our Satiriſt erected this lively piece, was this:—His Majeſty one evening at ſupper obſerved

ſerved a human hair upon his plate, among ſome green peas. This offenſive object occaſioned a decree to be iſſued forth, that all the cooks, ſcullions, &c. in the royal kitchen, ſhould have their heads ſhaved. Great murmurings were excited by this mandate; but the law, like that of the Medes and Perſians, was irrevocable.

On this incident, Peter formed his exquiſite production; only changing the hair, by virtue of the *licentia poetica*, to a living animal.

His next production was an epiſtle to JAMES BOSWELL, Eſq. the ſelf-ſufficient attendant upon Dr. Johnſon to the Hebrides. This was followed by "BOZZI and PIOZZI," in which the folly of tittle tattle biographers is expoſed in the happieſt manner.

The greateſt ſucceſs attended our author's publications. Never did any ſatiriſt diſplay ſuch various excellence. Thoſe who diſapproved his ſentiments, and were offended at his freedom and want of reſpect for authority, could not read his poems with unmoved muſcles. To give a catalogue of his numerous writings would be needleſs. There can be no occaſion to ſpecify at length what is univerſally known, and as univerſally admired. Though our author has ſhone moſt conſpicuouſly as a ſatiriſt, and here indeed his ſplendour has been of an extraordinary brilliancy, yet the reader of his ſonnets will ſometimes be diſpoſed to regret his having devoted ſo much of his time and genius to temporary and perſonal ſubjects.

The admirers of poetical elegance may laugh at our bard's pleaſant tales and whimſical deſcriptions; but they will feel a more exquiſite ſenſation on reading the tender and ſentimental effuſions of his pen.

The Doctor, we underſtand, lately ſuperintended a new edition of Pilkington's Dictionary of Painters, to which he made ſome additions. Before we conclude, it may not be amiſs to remark, that in his converſation our ſatiriſt

does

does not exhibit either that facetiouſneſs or acerbity which are ſo eminently diſplayed in his works.

Neither ought we to finiſh this article without obſerving, that Meſſrs. Robinſons, Golding, and Walker, agreed, in 1795, to pay Dr. W. an annuity of 240l. per annum, for the copy-right of his works. Unfortunately, owing to ſome obſcurity in drawing up the agreement, it has been contended by one party, that it implies only thoſe of the poet *already* publiſhed, while the others wiſh to include all that may hereafter be given to the world, by the facetious Peter.

We are ſorry to add, that an action at common law, has been ſucceeded by a chancery ſuit; and without entering into the merits of a queſtion, on which ſome future Chancellor may decide, in the courſe of the *nineteenth century*, we moſt cordially recommend an amicable adjuſtment, and immediate compromiſe to all parties. What a pity, that the rapacious harpies of the law ſhould be permitted to ſwallow up the patrimony of the Muſes!

Our poet, we believe, once more practiſes as a phyſician. Lately recovered from an *aſthma*, he has acquired an intimate acquaintance with the theory of that diſeaſe, and is himſelf a living inſtance, that with ſkilful management it is not fatal, even in its laſt and worſt ſtages. He has alſo minutely inveſtigated the ſtructure of that delicate organ, the human ear.

This is a ſpecies of knowledge neither to be obtained on the ſummit of Parnaſſus, nor drawn from the fountain Hippocrene; but there is a certain univerſality in genius, which, indeed, conſtitutes one of its chief characteriſtics.

W.

JOHN

JOHN MOORE, D.D.

LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

Primate of all England.

SOME of the ableſt and beſt prelates of whom the Church of England has to boaſt, originally aroſe from very humble ſituations in ſociety. The catalogue of her primates, in particular, almoſt entirely conſiſts of perſons of lowly extraction. Cranmer, Parker, Grindal, and Whitgift, the great pillars of the church eſtabliſhment, after the ſeparation from the papal yoke, were all of a mean deſcent, if, as in the vulgar phraſeology of common life, poverty and meanneſs be ſynonimous.

Archbiſhop Abbot was educated and maintained by public charity.

Laud's father was a weaver; ſo was Tillotſon's; and none of them appear to have been in circumſtances to provide for his ſon.

Potter was a ſervitor in his college; and both Herring and Secker were more indebted to good fortune, and lucky hits in life, than to family connections, for their elevation to the epiſcopal bench.

Nor has this been the caſe only with the Church of England. The moſt eminent of the Roman pontiffs ſprung from obſcurity; and the poor people in Italy, until of late, have been accuſtomed to excite in their children an application to ſtudy, by relating to them the ſtory of Pope Sixtus the Fifth. That great man was the ſon of a cottager; and on his elevation to the *tiara*, he uſed to ſay in contempt of the paſquinades that were made upon his birth, that he was *(domus natus illuſtri*)* "born of an illuſtrious houſe,

* This is a play upon words, and unfortunately loſes much of its point by tranſlation.

"becauſe

" becauſe the ſun-beams paſſing through the broken walls " and ragged roof, *illuſtrated* every corner of his father's " hut!"

Dr. Moore, the preſent Archbiſhop of Canterbury, is a native of Glouceſter, where his father was a butcher, in ſuch low circumſtances that he could not afford the expences neceſſary to give his ſon that liberal education which he both deſired and deſerved.

He was therefore brought up at the free ſchool of his native city, and on account of his docility of behaviour and promiſing talents, ſome friends procured for him an humble ſituation in Pembroke College, Oxford, whence he afterwards removed to Chriſt-Church.

While at college, he applied himſelf to his ſtudies with conſiderable aſſiduity, and acquired great reſpect by his modeſt demeanour, the regularity of his conduct, and his claſſical attainments.

He had, however, with all theſe qualification, no higher proſpect before him than that of a country curacy, till one of thoſe lucky circumſtances happened, which ſometimes occur in the great game of human life, and bring the obſcureſt individual to the moſt unlikely of all ſituations.

The late Duke of Marlborough affected to love the ſtudy of mathematics; and in conſequence of that propenſity, Mr. Bliſs, Savilian profeſſor of geometry and aſtronomer royal, was frequently at Blenheim. In one of his viſits there, the Duke aſked the Profeſſor to recommend him a young man qualified to act as private tutor to the Marquis of Blandford. Bliſs, whoſe ideas never went beyond the preſent circumſtance, had no thoughts of his own ſon, but was puzzling his brains to pitch upon ſome perſon that might anſwer the Duke's purpoſe. At the time he was thus ruminating, young Moore happened to be ſtrolling in the park, and as he was of the ſame college with the Profeſſor, who reſpected his character, he at once mentioned

him

him to his Grace, as one well qualified to undertake the charge.

In conſequence of this recommendation, Mr. Moore was ſent for, who very readily accepted the offer which was made him. But the pride of the Ducheſs would not permit her to allow her ſon's tutor to dine in her preſence; and therefore Mr. Moore was obliged to put up with a place at the ſecond table. The mortification ariſing from this circumſtance, perhaps, was not then very great: but it is remarkable, that this haughty dame when ſhe became a widow, actually courted the very ſame tutor to receive her hand!

Few men in Mr. Moore's circumſtances would have ſcrupled how to act on ſuch an occaſion. His prudence, however, made him foreſee that no real good could well reſult to him from an acceptance of the propoſal; and he accordingly declined it. This generous conduct endearing him to his pupil and the whole family, every exertion was made to promote his advancement in the church.

As a firſt ſtep, the young Duke ſettled an annuity of 400l. upon Dr. Moore, and obtained for him, in 1769, a golden prebend in the cathedral of Durham, to which a valuable living was annexed. In 1771, his Grace perſonally ſolicited for him, of the King, the Deanery of Canterbury, and obtained it; in 1775, he was made Biſhop of Bangor.

On the death of Dr. Frederick Cornwallis, in 1783, the ſee of Canterbury was offered to the two greateſt prelates that then ornamented the Engliſh Church, Lowth and Hurd. The former declined the tranſlation, from his great age, and the latter from his attachment to his own dioceſe of Worceſter. It is reported, but upon what ground we will not venture to ſay, that his Majeſty, on this, deſired each of thoſe great men to recommend one of the biſhops to him, as the fitteſt in their judgment to fill the metropolitical

litical chair; and that they both, without having any knowledge of each other's opinion, mentioned Dr. Moore.

To have ſuppreſſed this anecdote in this place would have been wrong, becauſe the ſtory has been very generally reported, and it *may* be true. As for our part, we are inclined to believe that the real fact is otherwiſe, and that his advancement to the primacy was the effect of the ſame patronage which firſt raiſed him in the church, Moſt undoubtedly he had not evinced any of thoſe ſtrong powers which could have produced ſo remarkable a predilection in his favour among his learned brethren; beſides, we might ſay, that it is very unlikely a preferment of ſuch conſequence ſhould, in a manner, be ſuffered to go *a-begging*.

Let the matter be as it may, Dr. Moore obtained the *ne plus ultra* of eccleſiaſtical dignity, and his conduct in it has been ſo decorous, as to reflect great honour upon himſelf and his patrons. The ſee of Canterbury requires a very temperate perſon; and his grace has exactly ſteered that courſe, which his illuſtrious predeceſſors, Tillotſon and Secker, purſued with credit to themſelves and benefit to the church.

He has wiſely avoided taking any active part in political diſputes, neither has he adopted any ſteps to inflame the minds of diſſenters on the one hand, nor to alarm the friends of orthodoxy on the other.

When any meaſure has been before the Houſe of Peers, in which the intereſts of the church were at all concerned, his Grace has generally been an able, but moderate, ſpeaker. During his primacy, the extenſion of toleration, and epiſcopacy have taken place; for the Catholics have been greatly relieved, and Biſhops have been appointed in America. Both theſe circumſtances had his Grace's countenance and ſupport. He has, moreover, been the conſtant friend of merit; and numerous acts of generous patronage might be recorded in his praiſe.

It

It too frequently happens, that men of obſcure origin affect to forget the lowly ſtock from whence they ſprang. An elevation for which they were no way prepared by family connections, generally turns their heads dizzy with falſe pride; and then a view of their humble deſcent becomes offenſive. Former friendſhips and ſituations are conſequently wiped out of their remembrance, and poor relations are carefully ſhunned, or caſt into ſhade, to ſubſiſt on a pittance privately beſtowed, that they may not tarniſh the dignity of the great perſonage to whom they have the fortune to be allied. He who riſes ſuperior to this common failing, is a true philoſopher, and worthy of our eſteem.

Dr. Moore no ſooner began to taſte the ſweets of proſperity, than he eagerly haſtened to communicate a portion of them to his family; and as he advanced in preferment, his attention to them was proportionably encreaſed. This is an eulogy far more honourable than that derived from the moſt illuſtrious talents, or the moſt ſplendid actions.

The Archbiſhop has only printed two ſermons; the one preached on the 13th of January, 1777, before the Lords, and the other on the faſt-day in 1781.

His Grace married a ſiſter of Lord Auckland, by whom he has ſeveral children.

ARTHUR

ARTHUR MURPHY, ESQ.

THAT eminent conſtellation, which once illuminated the literary hemiſphere with ſuch ſplendour, and in which JOHNSON ſhone with the moſt diſtinguiſhed luſtre, has, for ſome time, been reduced to a very ſmall number of luminaries.

The veteran who now calls for our conſideration, long moved in this illuſtrious circle with conſiderable reputation, and enjoyed a degree of applauſe, on account of his productions, which has been the lot of but few. He has, however, ſeen the greateſt ornaments of literature cut off, and hardly any others worthy notice ariſing in their place. He has beheld the new philoſophy ſpreading its glare wide around, and obtaining admiration; and he has lived to witneſs a new theatrical taſte, uſurping the province of the genuine drama, and threatening complete deſtruction to one of the fineſt branches of poeſy.

He has alſo exiſted long enough to witneſs a revolution, not only in matters of a political nature, but in manners, ſentiment, and amuſements. Surely ſuch a man, ſtill retaining all his faculties in their priſtine vigour, cannot contemplate the ſurrounding ſcene, in which he is nearly iſolated, without feeling all his ſenſibilities wounded! But let us wave reflection, and proceed to narrative.

Mr. MURPHY was born in Cork, about the year 1727, and received in that city the rudiments of his education. From Ireland he was ſent to the Jeſuit's College at St. Omer's, and attained in that learned ſeminary a very extenſive knowledge of the Latin language.

His uncle, who reſided in the Weſt-Indies, deſigning him for trade, he was placed in a banking-houſe in Lombard-ſtreet. But the Muſes ſoon attracted him from the bill-book and the ledger; and inſtead of applying himſelf to commercial

commercial ſtudies, all his attention was devoted to the writings of the moſt elegant authors, ancient and modern.

The counting-houſe was of courſe ſoon entirely abandoned; and, with a very ſcanty pittance of this world's ſtore, he entered himſelf, in 1750, a member of the Society of Gray's Inn, and became an adventurer in literature, partly from neceſſity, and partly from choice.

At firſt, indeed, he formed the deſign of adopting the ſtage as a profeſſion, but after two or three eſſays, one of which was in the character of Othello, he found himſelf better qualified to *write* plays than to *act* them *.

His firſt literary undertaking that we know of was the Gray's Inn Journal, which he commenced in 1752, and

* Charles Churchill, the celebrated ſatiriſt, was perhaps too ſevere on this attempt on the part of Mr. Murphy, whom he always perſecuted with a rancour that ſeemed, from its violence, to have ariſen in perſonal diſlike:

" In perſon tall, a figure form'd to pleaſe,
" If ſymmetry could charm, depriv'd of eaſe;
" When motionleſs he ſtands we all approve:
" What pity 'tis the THING was made to move!

" His voice in one dull, deep, unvary'd ſound,
" Seems to break forth from caverns under ground;
" From hollow cheſt, the low ſepulchral note
" Unwilling heaves, and ſtruggles in his throat.

" Could authors butcher'd give an actor grace,
" All muſt to him reſign the foremoſt place,
" When he attempts, in ſome one fav'rite part,
" To ape the feelings of a manly heart,
" His honeſt features the diſguiſe defy,
" And his face loudly gives his tongue the lie.

" Still in extreme, he knows no happy mean,
" Or raving mad or ſtupidly ſerene:
" In cold-wrought ſcenes the lifeleſs actor flags,
" In paſſion, tears the paſſion into rags.

" Can none remember?—yes—I know all muſt—
" When in the MOOR he ground his teeth to duſt;
" When o'er the ſtage he Folly's ſtandard bore,
" Whilſt Common Senſe ſtood trembling at the door."

ROSCIAD, l. 363.

continued

continued for two years. This work was not without its merit, or even celebrity, though when compared with the other periodical papers of the ſame time, particularly the formidable Rambler, it ſinks into inſignificance. This publication, however, was the means of introducing the author to the acquaintance of Dr. Samuel Johnſon, and as the anecdote is curious, it is worth relating in this place.

Mr. Murphy was on a viſit at the country-houſe of Foote, when a paper was wanted for his journal. Being ill-diſpoſed for compoſition, the Engliſh Ariſtophanes produced a new French miſcellany, in which was an Eaſtern apologue remarkably ingenious. This pleaſed our author ſo well, that he tranſlated it at once, and ſent it to his printer. On his return to town, he found that this tale had been taken by the French writer from Johnſon's Rambler without acknowledgment. Hurt at this unintentional plagiariſm, Murphy waited upon Johnſon, and made his apology. The moraliſt was eaſily pacified; and an acquaintance commenced, which continued till Johnſon's death.

At the beginning of the preſent reign, Murphy enliſted as a party-writer, in vindication of Lord Bute's adminiſtration; and though his labours were but feeble, in compariſon with the keen attacks of Oppoſition, he was handſomely rewarded by thoſe whoſe cauſe he eſpouſed.

At this time he was in habits of intimacy with Mr. Wilkes; and though they were engaged in a paper war, the former in the *Auditor*, and the latter in the *North Briton*, yet they knew not, for ſome time, that they were fighting with each other. On the diſcovery of the ſecret, Wilkes's partizans entered into a reſolution to oppoſe any new piece which Mr. Murphy might bring forward on the ſtage. Accordingly, when our Author's farce of "What we muſt all come to," was performed, a violent party-ſpirit manifeſted itſelf; and the piece, though free from any political alluſions, was *damned!* Some years afterwards it was again produced,

duced, under the title of "Three Weeks after Marriage," when it received unmixed applauſe, and has continued a favourite entertainment ever ſince.

Murphy expoſtulated with Wilkes on the conduct of his friends, and the patriot not only diſavowed any ſhare in their proceedings, but promiſed, that ſhould any future occaſion offer, he would himſelf come forward with his party in the offended bard's ſupport.

As a political writer, Mr. Murphy never roſe to any diſtinguiſhed eminence, otherwiſe we ſuppoſe he would have obtained either preferment or a penſion. The only thing with which he was favoured, as far as we know, was the poſt of Commiſſioner of Bankrupts, which he held till the appointment of Lord Thurlow to the great ſeal; and when the preſent Chancellor came into office, he replaced his old friend upon the liſt.

Though regularly called to the bar by the ſociety of Lincoln's Inn, after a long ſtruggle, he never obtained any extenſive practice, nor any ſhare of credit on account of legal abilities. He, however, went the Norfolk circuit for a conſiderable time.

As a writer, he has ſhone moſt in dramatic poetry; and it may be ſaid of him, what few who have written for the ſtage can boaſt, that he has been equally ſucceſsful in comedy and tragedy. His pieces in the former line evince great knowledge of the world, and a minute acquaintance with the human character, combined with that livelineſs of fancy which is eſſentially neceſſary to produce the ſenſations of mirth.

In his tragedies, one remarks a happy delineation of character, joined to a due mixture of the pathetic and heroic, clothed with language at once appropriate, eaſy, and elegant. So great has been the ſucceſs of his plays, that though the receipts of the *former* Drury-lane theatre never amounted to three hundred pounds a night, he gained eight hundred

hundred pounds by his "Grecian Daughter;" and very near the ſame ſum by "His Way to keep him."

Mr. Murphy's intimacy with the firſt geniuſes of the age tended greatly to improve his taſte, and conſequently to render his productions elegant. Such an aſſociation is of wonderful benefit to a riſing and emulous writer. In the company of ſuch as Johnſon and Burke, a man poſſeſſed of any portion of genius could not fail to have improved his mind. To have been in habits of cloſe friendſhip with theſe perſons required no ſmall portion of literary and moral merit.

Mr. Murphy had the credit of introducing Johnſon to the acquaintance of Mr. Thrale. He was alſo a member of the club which Johnſon inſtituted in Eſſex ſtreet.

In 1762 he wrote an Eſſay on the Life and Genius of Henry Fielding, prefixed to the complete edition of that writer's works, for which he received a conſiderable ſum. On this occaſion he behaved in a manner which few biographers will, perhaps, be diſpoſed to imitate. A conſiderable quantity of letters and anecdotes were put into his hands, by Sir John Fielding and others, to elucidate the memoir. On examining theſe communications, he found that many of them were well adapted to amuſe the public, but that at the ſame time they tended to tarniſh the memory of the deceaſed. He, therefore, ſuppreſſed them; and gave to his production the qualified title of an eſſay. He followed a ſimilar line of conduct with reſpect to the life of his friend Johnſon, which was publiſhed in 1791, and for which he was handſomely rewarded.

About the ſame time appeared his tranſlation of Tacitus, in four quarto volumes. In this work he had been engaged for many years; and there is a circumſtance reſpecting it which does Mr. Murphy infinite honour. Not long before the publication of this work, a nobleman of high rank and conſequence in the political world ſignified to the tranſlator his wiſh to have it dedicated to him. Murphy, however,

had previouſly determined to inſcribe his labours to the man whom he moſt eſteemed, the immortal BURKE, and he accordingly made a noble ſacrifice of intereſt to friendſhip!

His laſt literary production was a tragedy never performed, entitled "Arminius;" and he has been lately engaged in writing the life of the modern Ariſtophanes, Samuel Foote.

Mr. Murphy's claſſical knowledge and taſte appear to great advantage in his Latin poems, particularly in a verſion of Gray's Elegy; and we remember to have ſeen an elegant tranſlation of Addiſon's Letter from Italy, written by him, but never printed.

Mr. Murphy uſually reſides at Hammerſmith, enjoying an eaſy independence. He is a very entertaining companion, abounding in anecdotes, of which he is engagingly communicative in company. His character is highly reſpectable; and he enjoys the intimacy of ſome of the firſt perſonages in the kingdom.

We are ſorry, however, to obſerve, that his health is on the decline, and that he has been obliged to go to Briſtol, for the benefit of the waters.

W.

EARL

EARL OF DARTMOUTH.

WILLIAM, Earl of Dartmouth, ſucceeded his father in the year 1743, being then only twenty-five years of age. In 1755 he eſpouſed a rich heireſs of the name of Nichols, by whom he got a very conſiderable addition to his fortune, and in 1757 was choſen Recorder of Litchfield.

His Lordſhip being of a pious turn of mind, his conduct has been chiefly marked by an attention to religious duties, for which, as well as correctneſs of manners, he has been more diſtinguiſhed than moſt men of the ſame rank. Notwithſtanding this, he has not entirely abſtracted himſelf from public affairs, for we find him at times filling ſome of the moſt conſiderable offices in the ſtate.

His Lordſhip connected himſelf early in life with the Rockingham party, and when they came into power in 1765, he was made Firſt Lord of Trade, and ſworn of the privy-council.

He, however, does not ſeem to have continued ſtaunch to his old friends, for although he went out with them, yet about the year 1772 he was induced to accept of the poſt of Secretary of State, and ſoon after removed to the head of the board of trade. In this ſituation he took a warm and decided part againſt the Americans, which recommended him ſo much to his Majeſty, that in 1775 he had the cuſtody of the Privy Seal confided to him, which office he retained during the whole remaining term of Lord North's adminiſtration.

The noble Lord, who, along with the late Baron Smythe, was the chief ſupporter of the *evangelical preaching* at the Lock chapel, is by many conſidered a methodiſt. It is ſomewhat remarkable that a man of his retired and ſerious turn of mind ſhould engage in the buſy career of politics.

Soon after his diſmiſſion, he joined the coalition, and by them was appointed Lord Steward of the Houſehold, which place he retained about nine months, and when his friends were driven out of power, he retired with them, and has continued ever ſince in the walks of private life.

During the ſtruggle about the regency he took the ſide of the prince, for which his Highneſs ſhewed his gratitude, by appointing his ſon, Lord Lewiſham, Warden of the Stannaries of Cornwall.

Lord Dartmouth is eſteemed a man of ſenſe, and was conſidered as a tolerable ſpeaker in the Houſe of Lords. In private life, he bears the character of a good huſband, a good parent, and a kind maſter; and is, on the whole, one of the moſt inoffenſive among the nobility.

So early as the year 1755, we find the late Mr. James Hervey, author of the "Meditations," &c. one of his Lordſhip's intimates, ſpeaking highly of his pious diſpoſition.

He was alſo the cloſe friend of the late Counteſs of Huntingdon, Mr. George Whitfield, and all the eminent ſupporters of Calviniſtical Methodiſm. It muſt be allowed, that as a *private* man he has borne himſelf with an uniform character through life; and with the *profeſſion* of piety, has invariably connected the *practice* of it.

THE

THE HON. AND REV. DR. SHUTE BARRINGTON,

LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM.

JOHN SHUTE BARRINGTON, who was created an Engliſh Viſcount in the year 1720, was the intimate friend of the immortal LOCKE, and, like him, a firm aſſertor of the liberties of mankind, an acute metaphyſician, and an able expoſitor and defender of the ſacred ſcriptures. His Lordſhip died the latter end of 1734, and left behind him ſix ſons, five of whom have arrived at great eminence in the profeſſions of the army, navy, the law, and the church.

The ſubject of our preſent notice was the youngeſt of theſe, and was born about the year 1732. He received his education at Eton ſchool, whence he was removed to the univerſity of Oxford, where he was entered of Merton College; but he afterwards went to Chriſt-church, of which he became a ſtudent.

He entered into holy orders in 1756, and the year following took his degree of Maſter of Arts. June 10th, 1762, the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him; and in 1766, on the death of Dr. Taylor, he was preſented to a canon reſidentiaryſhip in the cathedral of St. Paul.

In the year 1769 he was made Biſhop of Landaff; and while in that ſtation he brought a bill into the Houſe of Lords, the object of which went to check the encreaſing evil of matrimonial infidelity, by preventing perſons divorced by parliament from marrying thoſe with whom they had been criminal. His Lordſhip obſerved, that many acts of adultery had been committed ſolely with the intention to obtain ſeparation, in order to form new alliances; and therefore, he was deſirous of putting a legal barrier againſt that licentious practice. In this attempt he

was

was ſupported by the opinion of the ableſt lawyers and divines in the kingdom. His laudable deſign, however, fell to the ground; though had it taken place much good would have been effected by it, and the long catalogue of divorces muſt have been drawn within a very narrow compaſs.

In the year 1782, his Lordſhip was tranſlated to the ſee of Saliſbury, where he diſtinguiſhed himſelf greatly by his liberality in repairing and beautifying the noble cathedral of that dioceſe; and on the death of Biſhop Egerton, in 1791, he was tranſlated to Durham, with the approbation of every well-wiſher of the church and ſtate.

In his epiſcopal capacity, his Lordſhip has conducted himſelf with great dignity of manners, and with the moſt exemplary attention to the duties of his office.

He has been very watchful over the behaviour of his clergy; and has ſhewn a moſt commendable circumſpection with reſpect to the character and qualifications of candidates for holy orders.

With a laudable zeal to promote the ſtudy of ſacred literature, he beſtows premiums upon ſuch candidates as excel in the Hebrew and Greek languages. This, we believe, is quite a novel practice; and doubtleſs, were it generally followed, it would only create a ſpirit of emulation in young perſons preparing for the church, but would, moreover, render moſt of them aſhamed of appearing before the Biſhop or Archdeacon without a tolerable ſhare of ſacred learning.

One anecdote of his Lordſhip does high honour to his liberality and his piety. A relation of Mrs. Barrington having experienced ſome embarraſſments and diſappointments in life, wiſhed to mend his ſituation (being a military officer), by entering into the church, thinking that the Biſhop would provide handſomely for him. On making the neceſſary application to his kinſman, he was aſked

what

what preferment would ſatisfy him. To this home queſtion he readily anſwered, that about 500*l* a year would make him a happy man. "You ſhall have it," ſaid his Lordſhip, "but not out of the patrimony of the church. "I will not deprive a worthy and r gular divine to pro- "vide for a neceſſitous relation. You ſhall have the ſum "you mention yearly out of my own pocket."

The Biſhop has publiſhed ſeveral ſingle ſermons, and ſome epiſcopal charges, which have been greatly eſteemed. He alſo contributed ſome valuable notes to Mr. Bowyer's "Conjectures on the New Teſtament," and he has given the world an edition of his father's "Miſcellanea Sacra," in three volumes, 8vo. with many additions and corrections.

Though a ſupporter of adminiſtration, he has conducted himſelf in parliament with great moderation.

W.

MR.

MR. KING.

THE character of an actor, in private life, has been uſually beheld, throughout all Europe, with a certain degree of coolneſs, bordering on contempt. In Spain, we believe comedians are not admitted to *confeſſion*, at this very day; and it is well known, that in France, previouſly to the abolition, or at leaſt the *limitation* of the Monarchy, they did not enjoy the rites of ſepulture, or, in other words, were not permitted to participate of "a Chriſtian burial." In this country, illiberal prejudices are happily of leſs avail, and the names of Shakſpeare and of Garrick have contributed not a little to ſhield the whole profeſſion from indiſcriminate contumely.

The object of this memoir, known to all lovers of the drama, by the familiar name of "Tom King," ſeems to have received a better education than the bulk of the fraternity. His family, which was reſpectable, ſent him to a good grammar ſchool in the country, whence, at a proper period, he was removed to London, and articled to an attorney.

He ſoon, however, became captivated with the ſtage; and quitting his profeſſion, accompanied Shuter, and joined a ſtrolling company, about thirty miles from London. This of courſe, irritated his parents, who, inſtead of endeavouring to reclaim, abandoned and ſent him to ſhift for himſelf. If Tate Wilkinſon is correct in his dates, Mr. King muſt now have been on the ſtage full half a century, for he tells us that he played under Mr. Garrick in 1748.

Thoſe who have ſeen this excellent actor of late, will ſcarcely be induced to believe, that for many years after his firſt appearance he almoſt excluſively acted in tragedy.

In

In 1748, he performed George Barnwell; and next year appeared in Dublin in the character of the Roman Father!

He at length obtained an engagement at Bath, where he contracted a friendſhip with Miſs Baker, at that time a celebrated dancer, and who is at preſent his wife.

His ſucceſs at Bath recommended him to the managers of Drury-lane, who employed him at a ſmall ſalary, and entruſted him only with inferior parts; nor could he, for ſome time, obtain any character in the leaſt ſuitable to his talents. He therefore quitted that theatre, repaired again to Ireland, and acted in a conſiderable number of comic characters, with great applauſe. He had, by this time, contrived to form in Dublin a very reputable ſet of acquaintance, and would probably have remained in that country, had he not foreſeen the diviſions which were likely to take place in its theatrical concerns. He accordingly applied to Mr. Garrick, and the fame of his merit having reached England before his offer, he was engaged at a genteel ſalary.

Garrick immediately brought him out in the character of *Tom*, in the "Conſcious Lovers;" in which, and many other comic ſituations, he obtained uncommon applauſe. But what raiſed his fame to the ſtandard at which it afterwards ſtood was his inimitable performance of *Lord Ogleby*, in the "Clandeſtine Marriage," which he executed in ſo maſterly a ſtyle, as to obtain the moſt flattering attention, and greatly aſſiſt the run of that excellent comedy.

It is ſaid, that Garrick intended to play the part himſelf, but could not fix on a mode of doing it to his mind. On this he deſired King to try it, and was ſo pleaſed with the firſt ſpecimen he gave at the rehearſal, that he declared, if he could ſupport the ſame ſtyle of acting throughout, it would be one of the firſt comic characters on the ſtage.

On the death of Mr. Powell, in 1765, Mr. King purchaſed his ſhare of the Briſtol theatre, which turned out profitable

profitable to him; and with his winter engagement at Drury Lane, produced a very handsome income. He sold it, however, a few years after, to Mr. Palmer, of the theatre at Bath (late of the post-office), and purchased the property of Sadler's Wells; but this not being so productive as he wished, he disposed of it to Mr. Wroughton.

When Mr. Sheridan and the other partners purchased Drury-lane house, that gentleman's inimitable comedy of "The School for Scandal" was brought out. This afforded Mr. King a new opportunity of displaying his talents for comedy, in the character of *Sir Peter Teazle*; and when Sheridan embarked so deeply in politics, as to prevent his attending the duty of the theatre, he delegated his power to King, and appointed him acting manager.

A little before this, Mr. K. had absented himself during a whole season from the stage; on his return, he wrote an interlude for his introduction, called "A dramatic Olio," which was well received. He has also written "Love at first Sight," a ballad farce, acted at Drury-lane in 1765; and "Wit's last Stake," another farce, played at the same house in 1769.

But in the midst of this prosperity, and when he had realized a handsome fortune, a passion, which he had long suppressed, is reported to have broke out, and destroyed his pleasing prospects. While under Mr. Garrick's dominion, and a candidate for public favour, he discovered an insurmountable propensity to play; and although cautioned against it, yet he could not resist, but lost all his earnings at the gaming-table. One night, however, Fortune smiled, and he gained so large a sum as 2000l. On this he is said to have immediately made a most solemn declaration, both to Garrick and his wife, "that he would never touch a dice-box again!" It has even been said, that he executed a bond for a sum of money to the former, under penalty of forfeiture in case he ever gamed. King kept his resolution for many years, until by the death of his friend "Davy,"

" Davy," he perhaps deemed himſelf abſolved from his engagement: having then an extenſive circle of genteel acquaintance, he was induced to enter himſelf, about the year 1784 or 1785, a member of the club at Miles's, merely from the love of ſociety, and fully ſecure, as he thought, againſt the allurements of play. He was, however, at laſt tempted; and loſing, at firſt, ſome ſmall ſums, became vexed, and ventured deeper, until that fortune he had been ſo long accumulating by his exertions was almoſt totally exhauſted. In conſequence of this, he parted with his pretty little villa at Hampton, and exchanged his houſe in Gerrard-ſtreet for a ſmall one in Store-ſtreet, Bedford-ſquare.

Nor was the loſs of fortune the only diſappointment that enſued. He was at that time in treaty with Dr. Ford for a ſhare of Drury-lane theatre, but this unlucky transfer of his property rendered him incapable of making good the payment. Some trifling diſpute having occurred, in conſequence of this, Mr. King, in anger, reſigned his two ſituations, as actor and manager at Drury-lane theatre.

He was, however, under the neceſſity of relying once more on the ſtage for a maintenance; and accordingly, in 1788, he repaired to Dublin, the ſcene of his juvenile triumphs, where he was again received with all that warmth and enthuſiaſm ſo delectable to an old favourite.

On his return, he performed a ſtipulated number of nights at Covent-garden theatre, both to the advantage of himſelf and the manager; and next ſeaſon he reſumed his ſituation at Drury-lane.

Laſt year, actuated by motives of ſincere friendſhip, Mr. Smith, who had long quitted the ſtage, came to town, expreſsly on purpoſe to play *Charles*, in the " School for Scandal," for his benefit; and the houſe, as might be expected, was, in the language of the theatre, " a bumper!"

Mr. King is undoubtedly the firſt comic actor the ſtage has poſſeſſed for many years, and alſo ſtands unrivalled in the happy art of delivering a lively prologue.

THE

THE HON. BROWNLOW NORTH,

LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.

THIS reſpectable prelate is half-brother of the late Frederick, Earl of Guildford, the amiable but unfortunate miniſter of this country, in perhaps one of the moſt eventful period of its hiſtory.

His Lordſhip was educated at Eton ſchool, whence he removed to Trinity college, Oxford, which he afterwards left for a fellowſhip of All-Souls.

Here he took his degree of LL.D. and on entering into holy orders, was preferred to a canonry of Chriſt-Church; in 1770 he was advanced to the Deanery of Canterbury, and appointed one of the king's chaplains; the year following, he was conſecrated Biſhop of Litchfield and Coventry.*

In 1774, he was tranſlated and confirmed in the ſee of Worceſter; and in 1781, he was removed to Wincheſter.

In all the ſituations he has filled his Lordſhip has obtained diſtinguiſhed reputation; and every church over which he has preſided ranks his name in the catalogue of its moſt munificent prelates.

When he was Biſhop of Worceſter, he promoted that excellent inſtitution for the benefit of the widows and orphans of poor clergymen belonging to his dioceſe, in aid of the charity derived to them from the muſic meeting, and alſo for the relief of the aged infirm incumbents of ſmall livings, and of poor curates with large families.

His Lordſhip's manner is highly dignified, yet condeſcending; he blends authority and watchfulneſs with tenderneſs and benevolence. He is juſtly regarded as the

* Dr. North was Dean of Canterbury before he was twenty-nine years old, and Biſhop of Litchfield and Coventry at the age of thirty-three.

father

father of his dioceſe; and his charities, which are very extenſive, are judiciouſly adminiſtered.

His Lordſhip has invariably preſerved through life the eſteem of men of all parties and perſuaſions. During a long reſidence in Italy, whither he went on account of his health, he attracted the univerſal regard of the dignified clergy of the Roman communion. In ſhort, the ſuavity of his manners and his elegant deportment excited in many a high degree of reſpect for the Engliſh HIERARCHY.

Dr. North at one time took an active part in the great political queſtions of the day. In 1784 he ſupported Mr. Fox's celebrated India bill in the Houſe of Lords; and during another important period, we find his name in every diviſion of the peers in favour of the Prince of Wales's uncontrouled right to the Regency.

As Biſhop of the ſee of Wincheſter, he is prelate of the Garter, the *inſignia* of which order are conſtantly worn by his Lordſhip.

He is now a widower, and has four daughters and two ſons.

MR.

MR. WILLIAM JACKSON, OF EXETER.

THIS elegant compoſer, and ingenious writer, was born at Exeter in May, 1730. His father was an eminent grocer in that place, and afterwards maſter of the city workhouſe.

He gave his ſon a very liberal education; and perceiving that the bent of his genius lay towards muſic, he complied with his inclinations, and put him under the tuition of Mr. Sylveſter, then organiſt of the cathedral church of St. Peter, in Exeter, with whom he continued two years. After leaving Mr. Sylveſter, Mr. Jackſon went to London, about the year 1748, where he became a pupil of Mr. Travers, organiſt of the King's chapel, and of St. Paul's, Covent-garden, with whom he alſo remained two years, and then returned to his native city, where he taught muſic for many years with great reputation. He alſo publiſhed ſeveral beautiful compoſitions, marked by the moſt chaſte conceptions, the moſt elegant taſte, and the moſt correct knowledge of the principles of harmony. In ſhort, all his pieces were received with applauſe, and ſtill rank very high in the muſical world.

Notwithſtanding his great and univerſally acknowledged merit in his profeſſion, he obtained no ſituation as an organiſt till Michaelmas, 1777, when he ſucceeded Mr. Richard Langdon as Sub-chanter, Organiſt, Lay-vicar, and Maſter of the Choriſters, in the cathedral of Exeter.

Mr. Jackſon, early in life, married Miſs Bartlett, a milliner at Exeter, who is ſtill alive, and by whom he has had ſeveral children, three of whom only are now living, two ſons and a daughter. One of the former (the elder) went to China, and returned thence with a competent fortune, which

which he intended to enjoy in his native city, in the bosom of his family: but the appointment of an Embassy to the court of Pekin, called him from his retirement into service, and he accordingly accompanied Lord Macartney on that mission, and now resides once more at Exeter. The youngest son living is employed at present at Turin, as Secretary to our Ambassador at that court.

After amusing the circle of his friends with several ingenious pieces of his writing in prose and verse, Mr. Jackson appeared as an author in the year 1782, at which time he published in two small volumes, 12mo. "Thirty letters on various Subjects." These formed a miscellaneous collection on literature and science, and evinced extensive knowledge, united with an elegant taste. On poetry, music, and painting, his opinions are allowed to be very ingenious, and have obtained general approbation. But in some respects he manifested a paradoxical spirit, particularly in the instance of *spontaneous generation*, a notion which he attempted to illustrate, and revive, from the oblivion in which it had so long and deservedly sunk. These letters, however, on the whole raised our author's credit very high. It was not, however, till 1795, that he thought proper to publish a new edition of them, although they had been out of print for several years before. To that edition, which is in one volume octavo, there are several additions and corrections.

During the present year Mr. Jackson has added a second volume, under the title of "The Four Ages; with Essays on various Subjects." In this ingenious work he considers the four mythological ages as characteristic of so many distinct periods of the world, but in a different order from that in which the poets have placed them. Among the essays there is a most curious and entertaining one, on the character of Gainsborough the painter, of whom some whimsical anecdotes are given.

In

In the year 1792, a literary ſociety was inſtituted at the Globe Inn, Fore-ſtreet, Exeter, of which the firſt members were Dr. Downman, preſident; Mr. Polwhele, author of "The Hiſtory of Devonſhire;" Mr. Jackſon; the Rev. Mr. Swete, of Oxton; Mr. Hole, author of an "Eſſay on the Arabian Nights Entertainments;" Mr. Sheldon, the Anatomiſt; and other ingenious gentlemen reſident in Exeter, or its environs. Each produced in his turn an eſſay in proſe or verſe, which was read at the regular meeting of the ſociety. An octavo volume of theſe was printed in 1796, which reflects great honour upon this inſtitution. The papers, however, appear without the names of the authors, which in our opinion is a piece of delicacy not to be commended: and as we are not bound by any rules of ſecreſy, we ſhall not ſcruple to mention thoſe which belong to the gentleman of whom we are now ſpeaking.

Mr. Jackſon has no leſs than three in this volume, all of them connected with each other in point of ſubject. Theſe are, eſſay the eleventh, "On Literary Fame, and the Hiſtorical Characters of Shakſpeare;" eſſay xviii. "An Apology for the Character and Conduct of Iago;" and eſſay xviii. "An Apology for the Character and Conduct of Shylock." The firſt is certainly the beſt, and will be read by thoſe who admire our immortal bard with great pleaſure, and even with improvement. Mr. Jackſon is peculiarly happy in throwing new light upon the point which he undertakes to illuſtrate, and he brings his various reading to bear with great force upon the ſubject. He is ingenious in his apology for Iago, and ſays many things to "extenuate" his conduct; but that in behalf of Shylock is far more convincing and ſatisfactory. Theſe eſſays are lively, pleaſant, and exceedingly well written.

Mr. Jackſon poſſeſſes the advantage of a chaſte, correct, and even elegant ſtyle. The reader will not ſlumber over his

his pages, nor when he has perused either of his volumes will he wish to lay it by in peace: he will recur to it often with new avidity, and receive from it fresh pleasure. The same may be said of his literary as of his musical compositions, that they will always charm with the force of novelty and delight, though repeated a thousand and a thousand times.

In temper and conversation he is what he appears in his writings, pleasant, social, communicative, and abounding in judicious remarks and entertaining anecdotes.

LORD MALMESBURY.

THIS diſtinguiſhed nobleman, whoſe name will frequently occur in the hiſtory of George the Third, would have inherited philoſophy as well as fortune from his anceſtors, could the one have been as eaſily tranſmitted as the other.

His father, James Harris, Eſq. the celebrated author of HERMES, was the ſon of Elizabeth, ſiſter to Anthony, Earl of Shafeſbury, the immortal author of the CHARACTERISTICS. Mr. Harris was born at Saliſbury, in 1708, and after receiving a claſſical education in that city, was removed to Wadham college, Oxford, which he left without taking a degree.

He repreſented the borough of Chriſt-church, in Hampſhire, in ſeveral parliaments; but did not obtain any public office till the year 1763, when he was preferred to a ſeat at the Admiralty-board, which he reſigned ſoon after, on being appointed to another on the Treaſury-bench. In July, 1765, he was deprived of his place, and continued out of office until 1774, when he became Secretary and Comptroller to the Queen, which poſt he held till his death, December 21ſt, 1780.

His only ſon, JAMES HARRIS, now Lord Malmeſbury, was born April 20th, 1746, and being early deſigned for a public life, received an education accordingly.

Under ſo profound and elegant a ſcholar as Mr. Harris, the ſon could not but derive every aſſiſtance calculated to render him an ornament to his family. His education, prior to his removal to Oxford, was conducted chiefly under the eye of his father. He alſo left college without taking a degree, and was very early employed as Secretary to an embaſſy at one of the Northern courts.

In

In 1772, he appeared in the character of Envoy-extraordinary at Berlin; and in the following year both he and his father were returned members of parliament for the borough of Chriſt-church. His diplomatic conduct gave ſo much ſatisfaction to the government which he repreſented, that in 1775 he was made Knight of the Bath, and about the ſame time was appointed Envoy-extraordinary to the court of Ruſſia.

After reſiding a conſiderable time at Peterſburgh, he was employed as ambaſſador at the Hague; which important ſtation was occupied by him in the year 1787, when Holland was threatened with a revolution, which was averted for ſome time, by an humiliating recourſe to the aſſiſtance of Pruſſian bayonets. The conduct of Sir James Harris on that occaſion was peculiarly offenſive to the patriots; but it was ſo highly ſatisfactory to the Prince of Orange and the King of Pruſſia, that they beſtowed upon him the privilege of bearing the Pruſſian eagle in his arms, with the motto appertaining to the Houſe of Naſſau, in conſideration of the ſignal ſervices which he had rendered them.

Theſe diſtinctions were confirmed by his own ſovereign in 1789, and Sir James was created a peer, September 15th, 1788, by the title of Lord Malmeſbury, Baron of Malmeſbury, in the county of Wilts.

His Lordſhip remained out of employment from that time till the government found it expedient, at the end of 1796, to comply with the wiſh of the people in endeavouring to obtain the reſtoration of peace. No man at that time appeared more fit to be entruſted with ſuch an important charge than Lord Malmeſbury; and we believe that his *firſt* appointment to this ſtation was with the entire approbation of all parties. His Lordſhip's negociation, however failed; and he was enjoined to quit Paris, by a

peremptory order of the French Directory, in forty-eight hours, December 17, 1796.*

Whatever opinions may be entertained respecting the conduct of the two powers, in this negociation, or the views with which they were actuated, it must be allowed that his Lordship evinced on that occasion the most consummate knowledge of diplomatic business.

A second attempt to put an end to this long and sanguinary contest was thought proper to be made by our ministers in June, 1797, and Lord Malmesbury was again appointed to the office of negociator. The necessary preliminaries having been accordingly settled with the Directory, his Lordship and suite set out on the 30th of that month for Lisle, the place fixed upon as the seat of business, and the French government immediately extended a chain of telegraphs between that city and Paris.

It would be foreign to our purpose to enter into the merits of the political manœuvres practised in this diplomatic game. The French Commissioners shewed themselves adroit enough for his Lordship, though an old practitioner, versed in all the arts of modern intrigue. Their demands, as far as they avowed them, were abundantly extravagant; and the care with which they concealed their objects, was dexterous indeed. After playing with each other until the patience of all Europe was exhausted, and suspicions began to take place on the score of sincerity, the Commissioners had recourse to their old method of putting an end to the negociation, and actually dismissed his Lordship, upon the plea that he was not vested with full powers to resign the whole of the conquests made by this country from France and her allies during the war.

* The Directory conceived that he had been tampering as a partisan, rather than treating like a diplomatic agent.

The

The Engliſh miniſter accordingly quitted Liſle, and arrived in London on the 20th of September, without having effected a ſingle ſtep favourable to the great object on which he was employed. It has been indeed ſaid, in the ſenate of a neighbouring country, that the "Iriſh Directory" impeded his operations, by means of their agent!

Without throwing the ſlighteſt reflection upon his Lordſhip's talents, or inclinations, we yet cannot but acquieſce with the opinion of many very reſpectable politicians, and thoſe too of the moſt moderate caſt of ſentiment, that after the ill ſucceſs which attended his former miſſion, it was bad policy in the miniſtry to employ the ſame perſon in a ſimilar negociation.

Some have even ventured to ſay, that the line of practice in which his Lordſhip has uſually been engaged, rendered him an unfit perſon to be charged with this buſineſs. Different times, people, and occaſions, certainly call for different kinds of treatment. New modes, and even a new language, ſhould be adopted, in negociating with a people who have thrown aſide old political ceremonies and conſiderations; and therefore another kind of ambaſſador ſhould have been ſent to treat with them, than one whoſe whole life had been occupied in the knowledge and practice of the ancient diplomatic forms.

Whether this ſort of reaſoning be right or wrong, we ſhall not take upon us to determine. But we cannot help regretting, that when his Lordſhip's firſt attempt failed, his Majeſty's miniſters had not put it out of the power of their adverſaries to accuſe them of inſincerity, by employing another miniſter, when they thought it expedient to treat once more for the reſtoration of peace.

This nobleman poſſeſſes the confidence of the preſent adminiſtration, and is intimately acquainted with its views relative to continental politics. It is not difficult, therefore, to prognoſticate, that his diplomatic talents will not be ſuffered to ruſt in obſcurity.

Lord

Lord Malmeſbury married, July 28th, 1777, the daughter of Sir George Amyand, Bart. by a ſiſter of Sir George Cornwall, Bart. and has by his lady ſeveral children.

He has two ſiſters living; one married, the other ſingle, and reſiding at his Lordſhip's ſeat, the manor-houſe of Great Durnford, about four miles from Saliſbury, only remarkable for its neat and embelliſhed pleaſure-grounds. In the ſame village ſtill ſtands the cottage to which the great author of Hermes retired from the buſy world, and in which he wrote the chief part of his works. It is unoccupied, but its furniture, &c. is in all reſpects carefully and religiouſly preſerved by Lord Malmeſbury, in the exact ſtate in which it was left by his father. This very intereſting cottage is entirely ſecluded from the public eye, being ſurrounded on three ſides by walls, and only open on the weſt ſide, which adjoins the Avon. His Lordſhip generally ſpends a few weeks in every year at the manor-houſe in great retirement.

W. J.

JOSEPH

JOSEPH WHITE, D.D.

LAUDIAN PROFESSOR OF ARABIC,

In the Univerſity of Oxford.

THE lives of ſuch men as have riſen from very low ſituations in life to diſtinguiſhed eminence, by the ſtrength of their talents alone, are among the moſt uſeful articles of biography, becauſe they hold out encouragement to young perſons of a like deſcription to exert their abilities with perſeverance; and, at the ſame time, afford a leſſon to thoſe who have it in their power to aſſiſt genius. Had CHATTERTON met with a friend, generous enough to put him in a line where he might have turned his talents to an honourable and beneficial account, he would not, probably have ſought an early grave as a refuge from his miſeries.

The very ingenious and worthy ſubject of the preſent article was born of parents in indigent circumſtances in Glouceſterſhire. His father was, we are informed, a journeyman weaver, and brought his ſon up to the ſame profeſſion. Being, however, a ſenſible man, and for one in his ſituation, tolerably educated, he gave him what little learning was in his power. This excited a thirſt for greater acquiſitions.

Young White inherited a ſerious caſt of temper from his parents; and he employed all the time he could ſpare in the ſtudy of ſuch books as fell in his way. His attainments at length were ſo very reſpectable, that he began to be talked of as a prodigy of learning in his native village. A neighbouring gentleman of fortune luckily chanced to hear of this celebrated ſcholar; and curioſity inclined him to ſee and converſe with him. The modeſty of the ſelf-inſtructed youth recommended him to favour, while the

reſpectability

reſpectability of his knowledge rendered him an object of admiration. The gentleman felt that it was a pity ſuch a flower ſhould

——— " bluſh unſeen
" And waſte its ſweetneſs in the deſert air :"

He accordingly encouraged his ſcholaſtic ambition. He aſſiſted him alſo conſiderably in his ſtudies: and ſo rapidly did the young plant flouriſh under his foſtering care, that the generous patron ſent him to the Univerſity of Oxford, where he was entered of Wadham College. There he applied himſelf with ſuch aſſiduity to his ſtudies, and conducted himſelf with ſo much regularity, as to gain the general eſteem of the members of that ſociety.

On the 19th of February, 1773, he took the degree of Maſter of Arts, and about that time engaged in the ſtudy of the oriental languages, to which he was induced by the particular recommendation of Dr. Moore, now Archbiſhop of Canterbury. That diſcerning man obſerved a dint of application in Mr. White, united with a peculiar turn for philological enquiries, which he thought might turn to his account, if devoted to one object. Fortunately he hit upon the one which was beſt ſuited for Mr. White, and which has been of the moſt eſſential ſervice to him. He had before acquired a tolerable ſhare of Hebrew learning; and, conſequently, his progreſs in the Oriental languages was greatly facilitated thereby.

In 1775, he was appointed Archbiſhop Laud's Profeſſor of Arabic; on entering upon which office he pronounced a maſterly oration, which was ſoon afterwards printed with the title of " De Utilitate Ling. Arab. in Studiis Theologicis Oratio habita Oxoniis in Schola Linguarum, vii. id. Aprilis, 1775." 4to.

In this diſcourſe the Profeſſor endeavours to prove the vaſt importance and utility of the Arabic language, particularly

cularly in elucidating the ſacred writings. He therefore dwelt upon the neceſſity of this branch of literature, and enforced the ſtudy of it with an ardour which was natural for one in his ſituation. The oration had its effect; and many were actually led to ſtudy the Arabic, who had before treated it as barren and unprofitable.

He was at this time Fellow of his College, being elected in 1774 In 1778, Mr. White printed the Syriac Philoxenian Verſion of the four goſpels, the MS. of which Dr. Glouceſter Ridley had given to New College. This verſion was entitled, Sacrorum Evangeliorum Verſio Syriaca Philoxeniana Ex. Codd. MSS. Ridleianis in Bibl. Coll. Nov. Oxon. repoſitis, nunc primum edite, cum Interpretatione et Annotationibus Joſephi White, &c." 2 vols. 4to.

November 15, 1778, he preached a very ingenious and elegant ſermon before the Univerſity, which, according to cuſtom, was ſoon afterwards printed, under the title of " A Reviſal of the Engliſh Tranſlation of the Old Teſtament recommended. To which is added, ſome Account of an ancient Syriac Tranſlation of great Part of Origen's Hexaplar Edition of the LXX. lately diſcovered in the Ambroſian Library at Milan." 4to. About this time he was appointed one of the preachers at Whitehall chapel.

In 1780, Mr. White publiſhed " A Specimen of the Civil and Military Inſtitutes of Timour or Tamerlane: a Work written originally by that celebrated Conqueror in the Moſul Language, and ſince tranſlated into Perſian. Now firſt rendered from the Perſian into Engliſh, from a MS. in the Poſſeſſion of William Hunter, M.D. with other Pieces."4 to.

The whole of this work appeared in 1783, tranſlated into Engliſh by Major Davy, with Preface, Indexes, Geographical Notes, &c. by Mr. White, in one volume, 4to.

In

In Eaſter term, 1783, being then Bachelor of Divinity, he was appointed to preach the Bampton lecture the next year. As ſoon as he was nominated he ſketched out the plan; and finding aſſiſtance neceſſary to the perfection of it in ſuch a manner as he wiſhed, he went down to Devonſhire, on a viſit to Mr. Samuel Badcock, then ſettled as a diſſenting miniſter at South Molton. Doubtleſs in this interview the ſcheme was well digeſted, and Mr. Badcock undertook his ſhare of the taſk with that promptitude for which he was remarkable. This viſit releaſed the Profeſſor's mind from a conſiderable burthen which had oppreſſed it. Where, indeed, could he have found ſuch an auxiliary? The pen of Badcock, was not only that of "a ready" but of an elegant writer. His ſtyle was chaſte, flowing, and nervous. He had, moreover, an univerſal knowledge of theological learning. In controverſy, he was quite at home. No wonder, therefore, that the Bampton lectures were admirable in point of language, and forcible in reſpect to argument.

Let us not, however, detract from the lecturer's merit. Great was the genius which formed the plan, and gave a body to the work. Mr. White acted with prudence in calling to his aid ſuch men as Badcock and Parr. Yet his own ſhare of theſe labours was ſufficient to entitle him to the celebrity which they have procured him, and he is only to be blamed for not having acknowledged his obligations to thoſe elegant ſcholars, in a preface to the volume, when it was publiſhed.

As ſoon as the lectures were delivered, the applauſe with which they were received was general throughout the Univerſity. They were printed the ſame year, and met with univerſal approbation. A ſecond edition appeared in 1785, to which the author added a ſermon, which he had ſome time before preached before the Univerſity, on the neceſſity of propagating chriſtianity in the Eaſt-Indies.

Mr.

Mr. White's reputation was now eſtabliſhed, and he was conſidered as one of the ableſt vindicators of the Chriſtian doctrines modern times had witneſſed. Lord Thurlow, without any ſolicitation, gave him a prebend in the cathedral of Glouceſter, which at once placed him in eaſy and independent circumſtances. Soon after this he took his degree of Doctor of Divinity, and was looked up to with the greateſt reſpect in the Univerſity, as one of its chief ornaments, until the year 1788, when the death of Mr. Badcock diſcloſed his ſhare in the admired lectures. At firſt, Dr. White was aſtoniſhed; but the letters that had paſſed between Badcock and him, on this very ſubject, were not only in exiſtence, but in the hands of one who felt himſelf gratified in being the poſſeſſor of ſo important a ſecret. In addition to this, there was found among the papers of the deceaſed, a promiſſory note for 500*l.* from the Doctor; the payment of which was demanded, but refuſed by him on the ground that it was illegal in the firſt inſtance, as not having the words "value received," and ſecondly that it was for ſervice to be rendered in the hiſtory of Egypt, which the Doctor and Mr. Badcock had projected. The friends of the deceaſed, however, were of a different opinion; and the Doctor very properly conſented to liquidate the debt.

Notwithſtanding this conceſſion, Dr. Gabriel, who poſſeſſed the letters, printed them in 1789, in order, as he ſaid, to vindicate the character of the deceaſed, as well as his own, both of which had been aſſailed on this occaſion. In conſequence of this publication, Dr. White printed "A Statement of his literary obligations to the Rev. Mr. Samuel Badcock, and the Rev. Samuel Parr, LL.D." By this it appeared, that though Mr. Badcock's ſhare in the lectures was conſiderable and important, yet that it was not in that proportion which had been repreſented. As to Dr. Parr's, it conſiſted ſimply of verbal corrections.

Thus

Thus ended this curious diſpute, which at that time threw the whole Univerſity into confuſion and even contention. The Doctor's apology, however (for ſuch in fact his ſtatement is to be conſidered), gave ſufficient ſatisfaction, not only to his fellow academics, but to the literary world at large.

Since that period the Profeſſor has vacated his fellowſhip, by taking to himſelf a wife, and accepting a college living, in Norfolk, where he reſides during a conſiderable part of the year. In his parſonage-houſe, he has a printing preſs, with a large quantity of oriental types, and there he is at preſent buſily engaged in printing the Syriac Old Teſtament, deſcribed in the appendix to his ſermon on the neceſſity of a reviſal of the Engliſh tranſlation of the Bible. His man and maid ſervant labour at the preſs, and Mrs. White aſſiſts her huſband in compoſing.

Among Mr. Badcock's papers was found an analyſis of the projected hiſtory of Egypt, in Dr. White's hand-writing. It is a very maſterly ſketch; and we hope the learned Profeſſor will find time to complete a deſign, for the execution of which he has in a manner pledged himſelf to the public; and which, in conſequence of recent and important events, we think will bring him more credit and profit than the publication of the Syriac Bible.

Dr. White is the reviewer of publications in Hebrew and ſubjects of oriental literature in "the Britiſh Critic."

RICHARD

RICHARD HURD, D.D.

LORD BISHOP OF WORCESTER.

THIS learned and truly venerable prelate was born at Congreve, a village in Staffordſhire, where his father was a reſpectable farmer, who intending his ſon for the church, placed him under the tuition of that eminent ſcholar Anthony Blackwall.

Having attained a ſound claſſical knowledge, he was ſent to Cambridge, where he was admitted of Emanuel College, of which he afterwards became fellow; and was preſented by his ſociety to the living of Thurcaſton in Lincolnſhire.

In this retirement he devoted himſelf to the duties of his ſituation, and the cultivation of letters. Here he prepared his edition of Horace, which he judiciouſly dedicated to Biſhop Warburton, then conſidered as the coloſſus of literature, and the firſt critic of his day. Few perſons had a keener eye to diſcern the merits of men than Warburton; and though no one, perhaps, had a more haughty mind, or ever treated his adverſaries with ſuch coarſe ſeverity, yet certain it is, that he was entirely deſtitute of envy, and dreaded not the depreciation of his own fame, in conſequence of the riſing reputation of others.

He allured Mr. Hurd from his beloved ſtate of ſecluſion, and brought him forward to the world, almoſt againſt his own inclination. He made him Archdeacon of Glouceſter, and by way of acquiring popularity for him in the metropolis, aſſociated him with himſelf in the ſituation of preacher at the chapel in Lincoln's-Inn.

The object of the Biſhop was ſoon obtained. His diſcourſes procured general admiration; and the preacher attracted the notice and friendſhip of the *great* Earl of Mansfield,

field, through whose interest he obtained the distinguished office of Preceptor to the Prince of Wales, a situation for which no man in the kingdom was better calculated, and the duties of which he performed with great honour to himself, and, it is to be hoped, benefit to his royal pupil.

Preferment was now certain; nor was it long withheld. In 1775 he was made Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry; in 1781 he was appointed clerk of the closet to the king; and on the 30th of June, of the same year, he was confirmed in the see of Worcester.

On the death of Dr. Cornwallis, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1783, that dignity was offered to Bishop Hurd; but he had obtained a situation more congenial to his wishes, and therefore he declined it.

Since his translation to Worcester, his Lordship has almost wholly secluded himself from the busy world, residing chiefly at Hartlebury-castle, the episcopal palace of his diocese. This ancient and noble pile he has enriched by a large and inestimable library, containing the greater part of the books that had belonged to Mr. Pope and Bishop Warburton, which he has bequeathed for the use of his successors.

Here he exhibits a faithful and beautiful picture of primitive episcopacy; beloved and venerated by all ranks, as well of the laity as the clergy.

It remains to say something of his Lordship's literary character; and it would not be exaggerated praise, to assert that he stands at the head of the present generation of English scholars, eminently superior to those of his own age and standing, and unrivalled by such as are younger than himself.

He has shewn his critical powers and taste to the greatest advantage in his edition of Horace's "Epistolæ ad Pisones," &c. with an English commentary and notes; and also in his edition of Cowley's works. The first appeared in 1759, and the latter in 1772.

But

But the work which procured him the greateſt reputation, was his "Moral and Political Dialogues, with Letters on Chivalry and Romance," 3 vols. 8vo. 1765. Some of the pieces had appeared before, without a name, and their ſucceſs probably led the ingenious author to publiſh a complete and enlarged edition. Theſe dialogues evince a profound knowledge of the Engliſh hiſtory and conſtitution, and breathe a warm attachment to the cauſe of liberty.

As a theological writer, his principal productions are two volumes of excellent ſermons, preached before the Society of Lincoln's-Inn; and another of Diſcourſes on the Prophecies, at the lecture founded by Biſhop Warburton at the ſame place. In theſe compoſitions we obſerve deep thinking, cloſe logical reaſoning, fervent piety, and chaſte and elegant language.

As a diſputant, Dr. Hurd appeared to great advantage in a pamphlet, entitled "Remarks on Mr. Hume's Eſſay on the Natural Hiſtory of Religion." This anonymous performance irritated the philoſopher conſiderably, and he expreſſed his reſentment in terms that ſhewed how much he had been hurt by the caſtigation.

The attachment manifeſted by Dr. Hurd to Biſhop Warburton has often brought upon him very illiberal cenſures. About the time of his firſt connection with that great prelate, he printed an "Eſſay on the delicacy of Friendſhip," in which Dr. Jortin and Dr. Leland of Dublin were treated rather roughly for their want of due reſpect to the author's patron. When we recollect the motives which produced this eſſay, we ſee no reaſon to blame Dr. Hurd; his zeal for his friend was commendable, though it perhaps carried him rather beyond the line of prudence. When reflection operated on his mind, he accordingly ſaw reaſon to diſapprove of his haſtineſs; and much to his honour, took great pains to ſuppreſs the obnoxious pamphlet. It would have been perhaps better if it had been ſuffered to ſink into

that

that oblivion which the author wiſhed; as unfortunately, on his Lordſhip's publiſhing a large and magnificent edition of his friend's works in 1788, one of the greateſt ſcholars of this age, too officiouſly perhaps, and too much in that very ſpirit which he wanted to expoſe, reprinted the Eſſay, with ſome other "Tracts by Warburton and a Warburtonian."

When Biſhop Hurd's edition of Warburton's works appeared, the world was greatly diſappointed at not finding the long-expected life of that celebrated character. This afforded freſh ground for cenſure, and it was by no means ſpared. In conſequence of this complaint, he printed a prefatory diſcourſe, by way of introduction to the work, containing a brief but elegant memoir of the author. It is ſuppoſed that on his Lordſhip's deceaſe a more copious biography of his ancient friend and patron will be left for publication: this, of courſe, will exhibit a hiſtory of Engliſh literature, for half a century.

We had nearly forgotten to mention, that the earlieſt production of his Lordſhip's pen, which has appeared in print, was an Ode on the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle.

W.

DAVID

DAVID STEWART ERSKINE,

EARL OF BUCHAN.

IF the love of freedom, and the love of literature; if eminent proficiency in the fine arts, and an eager fondneſs to patroniſe the ſame proficiency in others; if claſſical and patriotic enthuſiaſm, aſſociated with not a few of the moſt amiable and reſpectable moral virtues;—are calculated to recommend any man to the eſteem and praiſe of his contemporaries, David, Earl of Buchan, cannot eaſily fail of obtaining their higheſt approbation.

This nobleman is the repreſentative of a younger branch of the illuſtrious family of the Erſkines, Earls of Marr, whoſe virtues and wiſdom recommended them for a ſeries of generations to the very honourable and confidential office of tutors to the ancient Kings of Scotland. At the univerſity of Glaſgow, in early youth, he applied with ardent and ſucceſsful diligence to every ingenious and liberal ſtudy. His hours of relaxation from ſcience and literature were frequently paſſed in endeavours to acquire the arts of deſign, etching, engraving, and drawing, in the academy which the excellent, but ill requited, ROBERT FOULIS for ſome time laboured to ſupport in that weſtern metropolis of Scotland.

Succeeding to the hereditary eſtates and honours of his family, he from that moment evinced a generous ambition to maintain and exalt, by his perſonal exertions, the true dignity of the Scottiſh peerage, and the name of ERSKINE.

The king's miniſters had been long accuſtomed, at each new election, to tranſmit to every peer a liſt of the names of ſixteen of his fellow-peers, for whom he was required to give his vote, in the choice of the members who ſhould repreſent the nobles of Scotland in the Britiſh parliament; and to this humiliating uſurpation, the deſcendants of the

moſt illuſtrious names had accuſtomed themſelves tamely to ſubmit! The Earl of Buchan, with the ſpirit of an ancient Baron, took an early opportunity of declaring, that he would oblige the Secretary of State who ſhould inſult him with ſuch an application to waſh away the affront with his blood. The practice from that time ceaſed; and miniſters were obliged to adopt ſome other leſs offenſive mode of exerciſing their electioneering influence over the Caledonian peerage.

The Earl had two very promiſing brothers, both younger than himſelf; and on their education he earneſtly beſtowed that care which was to be expected from the kindneſs and vigilance, not merely of a near relation, but of a prudent and affectionate parent. The fortunes of his family had been, from different cauſes, not diſhonoured indeed, but impaired ſo conſiderably, that they could no longer afford an annual income ſufficiently ample to ſupport its dignities with due ſplendour, and enable him to gratify all the generous wiſhes of a munificent ſpirit. Struck with this, he reſolutely adopted a plan of economy, admirably fitted to retrieve and re-eſtabliſh thoſe falling fortunes; and his endeavours (perhaps the moſt honourable and difficult which a young and liberal-minded nobleman could reſolve upon), without ſubjecting him to the imputation of parſimony, have been crowned and rewarded with opulence.

He perceived, with concern, that ſince the days of Sibbald, and Gordon of Straloch, the ſtudy of the antiquities of the Scottiſh hiſtory had been ſhamefully and unhappily neglected; and it is chiefly owing to his patriotic exertions, that the Royal Antiquarian Society of Scotland is indebted for its exiſtence.

The High School of Edinburgh is confeſſedly one of the beſt ſeminaries in the kingdom, for the initiation of youth in the firſt principles of the Latin language. By frequent viſits to this ſeminary, the Earl of Buchan has ſought every opportunity

opportunity of recommending to public notice the ſkill and attention of the teachers, as well as the happy proficiency of their pupils; and a premium, his gift, is annually beſtowed at the univerſity of Aberdeen, upon the ſucceſsful competitor in a trial of excellence among the ſtudents.

On reviewing the memorials of the Scottiſh nobility, Lord Buchan felt his enthuſiaſtic veneration in a particular manner excited, by the ſcience and virtues of the illuſtrious Napier, the inventor of logarithms, and the moſt eminent diſcoverer in philoſophy of which Scotland can as yet boaſt. With a generous hand he aſpired to crown the memory of his illuſtrious countryman with due honours; and in a well-written biographical memoir, diſplayed his life and character to the reverence and imitation of the preſent age. The enthuſiaſm of Lord Buchan has alſo inſtituted an annual feſtive commemoration of Thomſon, at Ednam, the ſcene of that poet's birth. Mr. Pinkerton, the hiſtorian and antiquary; Burns, who was prematurely ſnatched away from the admiration of the preſent age; Tytler, the tranſlator of Callimachus; and a long liſt of other men of genius, have been ſo fortunate as to attract the patronage and friendſhip of Lord Buchan.

The life of Andrew Fletcher has been by his care happily illuſtrated; and we owe to him ſome precious fragments of ſpeeches and eſſays, by that incomparable patriot, which had not been before printed.

The Earl of Buchan's exertions have been as invariably faithful to the cauſe of Liberty as of Literature. He has been always underſtood to be among the moſt zealous votaries of the principles upon which the revolution of 1688 was accompliſhed. His voice, his writings, his exertions in every manly and honourable mode, have ever been ready to reſiſt any threatened infringement of thoſe principles, in the Britiſh legiſlature or government. When the new dawn of a revolution favourable to genuine liberty

broke forth in France, he was not among the moſt tardy to hail its riſe, and to bleſs its progreſs. When the kings of Europe aroſe in arms for the purpoſe of once more binding the genius of that nation in the fetters of deſpotiſm, the Earl could not view the ill-omened enterpriſe without devoutly wiſhing that its force might be ſhattered againſt the ſacred armour of that virtue, and new-born freedom, which it boaſted to deſtroy.

On beholding thoſe exceſſes into which the French have been hurried in the progreſs of their revolutionary career, he lamented that the errors of humanity are ever too cloſely aſſociated with its moſt ſplendid and heroic exertions, yet without abandoning thoſe generous wiſhes for the immortal eſtabliſhment of Gallic freedom, which he had before accuſtomed himſelf to entertain.

Long may he ſurvive to do honour to the age by his virtues; to ſuſtain by his voice and his exertions the cauſe of genuine Britiſh freedom; and to patroniſe that literature and thoſe fine arts, in which he himſelf excels!

T. N.

JAMES

JAMES NORTHCOTE, ESQ. R.A.

THIS ingenious artiſt is deſcended from the ancient and reſpectable family of the NORTHCOTES, which has been ſettled in Devonſhire at leaſt ever ſince the conqueſt, has given ſeveral high-ſheriffs to the county, many repreſentatives for it in parliament, and on which a baronetage was conferred in the reign of James the Firſt.

The ſubject of the preſent article was born at Plymouth in the year 1746. His father was an eminent tradeſman in that town, and brought up his ſon to his own buſineſs. His propenſity to the elegant arts, however, prevailed over the drudgery of a mechanical employment; and at length he determined to abandon the occupation in which he had been engaged, and devote himſelf entirely to his favourite object. With this view he came to London, and placed himſelf under the care and tuition of his countryman and friend Sir Joſhua Reynolds, then in the zenith of his glory. That great man was ever ready to lend his helping hand to aſpiring merit; and he gave Mr. Northcote his utmoſt aſſiſtance towards perfecting himſelf in the art of painting. Our artiſt continued with Sir Joſhua five years, living with him in all the familiarity of friendſhip, and introduced by him to the moſt eminent characters of the age.

In the ſummer of 1777, Mr. Northcote ſet out for Italy, following in this the example and advice of his great maſter. He viſited every part of that delightful country, which at that time was the unrivalled ſeat of the fine arts. At Rome he continued near three years, which he found ſhort enough for the wonders and the beauties which abounded in it to engage the conſideration of a man of taſte, who was deſirous of treaſuring up in his mind the moſt extenſive knowledge of the ſciences connected with his profeſſion.

During

During his reſidence in Italy, he profited ſo well by the opportunities he met with, and obtained ſo extenſive an acquaintance with the firſt artiſts of the age and country in which he was, that he became greatly reſpected. His talents and deportment procured him the honour of being elected a member of the ancient Etruſcan Academy at Cortona, of the Imperial Academy at Florence, and of the Academy Del Forti, at Rome.

While at Florence, he painted a portrait of himſelf, for the academy, which is a compliment always expected from every new member.

He returned to England in 1780, and came by the way of Flanders, not only becauſe it was during the time of war, but that he might have the advantage of obſerving all that could be ſeen of the eminent maſters of the Flemish School.

Thus amply furniſhed with every requiſite that could conſtitute him a maſter in his profeſſion, he entered upon it in the metropolis of his native country, ſhortly after his arrival, and ſoon obtained the moſt diſtinguiſhed reputation. In 1786 he was choſen a member of the Royal Academy, and in every ſubſequent exhibition at Somerſet-houſe his productions have borne a conſpicuous part.

Perhaps the moſt perfect picture from his pencil was exhibited the year he was admitted of the academy. The ſubject is—the two young princes murdered in the tower. The ſtory is ſtrikingly and affectingly told; the drawing is perfectly correct, and the aſſaſſins are particularly well delineated. This picture was purchaſed by Alderman Boydell, and an engraving from it graces his ſplendid edition of Shakſpeare. Our artiſt has alſo painted ſome other pieces for the ſame work; all of which have great merit, but none in an equal degree with that juſt mentioned.

In the exhibition of 1796, Mr. Northcote produced a ſeries of moral pictures, deſigned to ſhew the oppoſite effects of

of ſerioufneſs and levity in two young women in menial ſituations of life. He clearly had HOGARTH in view; but though his pictures are good, they tell not what they are meant to expreſs with the force which characterizes that inimitable artiſt's productions. Theſe have ſince been engraved.

It redounds greatly to his praiſe, that his pencil has never in the ſlighteſt inſtance deviated from morality and decency. The reputation which Mr. Northcote has acquired as a painter is doubtleſs well merited. His colouring is chaſte, forcible, and diſtinct; his pictures have that breadth of light and ſhade which is one of the moſt agreeable properties of a good painting, and which is yet ſo ſeldom obſerved, even in the works of maſters. His hiſtorical pieces ſhew a great and an accurate acquaintance with the ſubject, much ſtudy, and that vigour of conception which is the true characteriſtic of native genius.

In private life, Mr. Northcote is greatly eſteemed, as a modeſt, unaſſuming, virtuous, well-informed, and communicative man.

W.

RICHARD

RICHARD WATSON, D.D.
LORD BISHOP OF LANDAFF.

THIS liberal-minded prelate was born in the village of Everſham, about five miles from Kendal, in the county of Weſtmoreland, in the year 1737. His father was a clergyman, and maſter of the free grammar-ſchool in Kendal, where our divine received the whole of his ſchool education, prior to his going to the univerſity of Cambridge, to which he brought with him a good ſtock of claſſical learning, a ſpirit of perſevering induſtry, and a very bad provincial accent, which he retained for a long time. He was admitted of Trinity College, and diſtinguiſhed, while there, by a cloſe application to his ſtudies, and conſtantly wearing a coarſe mottled Weſtmoreland coat and blue yarn ſtockings.

In taking his degrees he ſtood high among the wranglers, and the ſuavity of his manners, the regularity of his conduct, and the reſpectability of his talents, procured him a fellowſhip and a college tutorſhip. On the former occaſion he was oppoſed by Mr. Poſtlethwayte, who was deeply verſed in mathematics, but knew nothing of the world. Poor Poſtlethwayte, with all his ſkill, could *demonſtrate* himſelf fit only for a ſmall country living, while Watſon made his way to a profeſſorſhip and a mitre. He, indeed, ſoon obtained the eſteem of his own ſociety, and of the univerſity at large, to which a ſpirited oppoſition made by him to an improper recommendation of a candidate by the Duke of Grafton greatly contributed. This circumſtance redounds to the honour both of Dr. Watſon and the Duke, for the latter was ſo ſenſible of the propriety of the other's conduct, that he cultivated his acquaintance, and from that time they have been cordial friends.

It was not long after this, that he was elected public profeſſor of Chymiſtry, though he was then actually ignorant of the firſt principles of that ſcience. His electors, however, had no reaſon to repent of their choice, for he

ſoon

ſoon made up by diligence the want of preparatory acquirements. He paſſed whole days, and ſometimes nights, in the laboratory, aſſiſted by a good practical chymiſt whoſe name was Hoffman. In their firſt experiments, they deſtroyed numerous retorts, injured their health, endangered their lives, actually blew themſelves up, and at length did the ſame by their workſhop. But our profeſſor was not to be intimidated by all theſe diſcouraging circumſtances. He poſſeſſed an indefatigable ſpirit, which was deſtined to overcome difficulties.

His chymical character was at laſt completely eſtabliſhed; and his lectures, which were crowded with auditors, acquired him a high reputation. He was next advanced to the *Regius* Profeſſorſhip of Divinity, on the death of the learned Dr. Rutherforth, and about the ſame time he married.

Dr. Watſon very early diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the career of politics, by his attachment to thoſe Whig principles which have, until of late, uniformly diſtinguiſhed Cambridge from her ſiſter univerſity. He choſe a critical time to diſplay theſe principles, and to gain himſelf popularity: this was the year 1776, when the ſubjects of government and civil liberty were generally diſcuſſed. His ſermon preached before the Univerſity on the anniverſary of the Reſtoration, was printed under the title of "The Princi-" ples of the Revolution vindicated;" and attracted a degree of attention exceeded only by Biſhop Hoadley's famous ſermon on the kingdom of Chriſt. In the courſe of the ſame year, he alſo publiſhed another diſcourſe preached before the Univerſity on the anniverſary of the King's acceſſion. The publication of theſe brought on a controverſy; but the only piece worth noticing on this occaſion, was "An Heroic Epiſtle to Dr. Watſon," by the facetious author of "An Epiſtle to Sir William Chambers," under the appellation of "Macgregor."

He ſoon after gave more ſatisfaction to the religious world, and gained a higher portion of applauſe from the public

public at large, by an "Apology for Chriſtianity, in a Series of Letters addreſſed to Edward Gibbon, Eſq." This work, though perhaps it is not ſufficiently copious, raiſed the author's reputation very high, both as a controverſialiſt, and a polite writer. The manner in which the divine has treated the deiſtical hiſtorian has been greatly admired by all but incorrigible bigots, and held up as an excellent example for imitation. Mr. Gibbon declined entering into a diſcuſſion of the diſputed points with the profeſſor; but he wrote him a very polite letter, to which he received as polite an anſwer. The correſpondence has been printed by Lord Sheffield, and it does honour to both parties.

Dr. Watſon printed another political ſermon, preached before the univerſity of Cambridge, February 4th, 1780, being the day appointed for a general faſt, which diſcourſe is of the ſame complexion as thoſe above-mentioned.

In 1781 he publiſhed a volume of Chymical Eſſays, addreſſed to his pupil the Duke of Rutland. This work was received by the public with ſuch great and deſerved approbation, as to encourage the author to give the world, at different times, four additional volumes, all of equal merit with the firſt.

In the preface to the laſt volume, he has theſe remarkable obſervations: "When I was elected profeſſor of divi-
" nity in 1771, I determined to abandon for ever the ſtudy
" of Chymiſtry, and I did abandon it for ſeveral years;
" but the *veteris veſtigia flammæ* ſtill continued to delight
" me, and at length ſeduced me from my purpoſe.

" When I was made a Biſhop in 1782, I again deter-
" mined to quit my favourite purſuit: the volume which
" I now offer to the public is a ſad proof of the imbeci-
" lity of my reſolution. I have on this day, however,
" offered a ſacrifice to other people's notions, I confeſs,
" rather than to my own opinion of *epiſcopal decorum*—I
" have deſtroyed all my chymical manuſcripts.—A proſpect
" of returning health might have perſuaded me to purſue
" this

"this delightful ſcience; but I have now certainly done "with it for ever; at leaſt, I have taken the moſt effec- "tual ſtep I could to wean myſelf from an attachment to "it; for with the holy zeal of the idolaters of old, who "had been addicted to curious arts—*I have burned my books.*"

At length, Dr. Watſon's merits, and the recommendation of the Duke of Rutland, procured him a ſeat on the epiſcopal bench, on the tranſlation of Biſhop Barrington from the ſee of Landaff to Saliſbury. This biſhopric being poor, he was permitted to hold with it the Archdeaconry of Ely, a Rectory in Leiceſterſhire, and the divinity profeſſorſhip, to which is annexed the valuable living of Sameſham.

The gratitude of another pupil of Dr. Watſon's is ſtill more memorable. The late Mr. Luther, of Ongar, in Eſſex, at his deceaſe, in 1786, bequeathed to his tutor the ſum of 20,000*l.*

The Biſhop was hardly warm in his ſeat, before he brought himſelf into pretty general notice, as the advocate of eccleſiaſtical reform, in "A Letter addreſſed to the Archbiſhop of Canterbury." In this letter his Lordſhip ſtated, with no ſmall force, and with conſiderable pathos, the hardſhips of the inferior clergy, and the neceſſity of an equalization of church preferments. Though his arguments were concluſive, and though the facts which he ſtated were incontrovertible, yet many friends to his ſcheme thought him rather too precipitate and irregular in bringing forward his ſentiments on this ſubject. An addreſs to the metropolitan, through the medium of the preſs, from the junior prelate on the bench, was conſidered as a mode of proceeding not quite in the ſtrict line of eccleſiaſtical propriety, nor the beſt calculated to attain the object in view.

This letter accordingly drew down on his Lordſhip ſome very ſevere ſtrictures from the pen of Mr. Cumberland, a writer of great powers, but who on this occaſion was far from manifeſting a commendable temper.

The

The public curiosity was greatly excited when it was understood that he was appointed to preach before the Lords, January 30th, 1783. His discourses at Cambridge were still fresh in every person's remembrance, and therefore somewhat unusual was expected on this occasion. The abbey was uncommonly crowded; but the Bishop conducted himself with extreme caution, and delivered a sermon admirable in its composition, and very temperate in its sentiments.

In 1786, his Lordship published at Cambridge, "A Collection of Theological Tracts," in six volumes octavo, designed entirely for the use of students in divinity. This collection consists of pieces on the most interesting subjects in sacred literature, by different writers, many of which were become exceeding scarce. Little else is wanting to form such a compilation, but great reading, candour, and judgment. These are sufficiently displayed in this edition; and it cannot but prove an inestimable library of divinity to every candidate for holy orders.

At the time of the King's illness, the Bishop voted with those Lords who considered the Prince of Wales as having an absolute right to an unqualified assumption of the Regency. As the see of St. Asaph was then vacant by the death of the worthy Dr. Shipley, some persons were disposed to think that Bishop W. had his eye upon a translation thither. The King, however, recovered, the Regency of course dropt to the ground, and the bishopric of St. Asaph was filled by Dr. Halifax.

In June, 1791, the Bishop delivered a charge to his clergy, in which he took occasion to touch upon the great revolution which had recently taken place in France, and to advert to the state of things at home, chiefly with respect to the condition of the church, and the pretensions of dissenters. Some of his hearers took notes of his Lordship's discourse, copies of which were not only circulated with great industry throughout the diocese, but spread over all parts of the

the principality, and even reached Lambeth. Alarmed at the intention evidently manifeſted by this mode of circulation, the Biſhop loſt no time in publiſhing a faithful copy of his charge, which completely did away the evil deſigns of his enemies.

In the courſe of the preſent eventful conteſt, his Lordſhip has exhibited himſelf, in general, the ſteady advocate of pacific meaſures; and he has made ſome admirable and very impreſſive ſpeeches in his place in the houſe, on the neceſſity of adopting a conciliatory ſpirit.

But one of the beſt ſervices which he ever rendered to the public, was in counteracting the poiſonous principles of "The Age of Reaſon," by an "Apology for the Bible, in a ſeries of Letters addreſſed to the author of that work." 1796. This has doubtleſs been of infinite ſervice in maintaining the cauſe of truth; as it is written in a popular manner, and with a dignity of expreſſion and power of argument moſt admirably adapted to impreſs the mind with that reſpectful ſerioufneſs which is ſo neceſſary to produce a rational conviction.

It is to be lamented, however, that the Biſhop has given ſome advantages to the infidels, by paſſing over in ſilence certain parts of the Bible objected to by them. From that ſilence much has been inferred; and it certainly would have been more noble, and in fact more prudent, to have expreſſed his free opinion concerning thoſe paſſages.

At the beginning of the preſent year, his Lordſhip printed a very ſeaſonable and animated "Addreſs to the People of Great Britain." In this performance the Biſhop waves diſcuſſing the merits or demerits of the war, as to its origin. He conſiders the nation as reduced to the alternative either of an abſolute ſubmiſſion to the enemy, or a vigorous proſecution of the conteſt. Preferring the latter to the former, he pleads for great ſacrifices, and calls upon his countrymen to make very ſtrenuous exertions.

Every body allowed this addreſs to poſſeſs great merit as a compoſition;

a compoſition; but many who have made financial politics their ſtudy, conceived that the Biſhop had gone out of his depth, while others think, and doubtleſs with reaſon, that he has departed from all his former principles.

That ſuch a tract, coming from ſuch a man, ſhould produce replies, is not to be wondered at. The weight of his Lordſhip's character was well known. His popularity was very great; and thoſe who were adverſe to the ſentiments which he now expreſſed, were ſenſible that they would have a very extenſive influence upon the public mind. The proſecution of two of his Lordſhip's antagoniſts, has inflicted a deadly wound on the liberty of the preſs, and thus rendered controverſy ſafe only on one ſide of the queſtion!

The Biſhop is a good public ſpeaker; his action is graceful, his voice full and harmonious, and his delivery chaſte and correct.

As a writer he is diſtinguiſhed by a ſtyle plain and neat, but ſtrictly pure, nervous, and argumentative.

As a biſhop his character is moſt excellent; and as far as his influence extends, he hath been uniformly the patron of merit. His family conſiſts of ſix children; and his chief reſidence is Colgarth Park, delightfully ſituated near the lakes in his native country.

Beſides the pieces already mentioned, he hath written: "Richardi Watſon, A. M. Coll. Sacr. Sanctæ Trin. Soc. et Chemiæ Profeſſoris in Academia Cantabrigenſi Inſtitutionum Chemicarum in prelectionibus Academicis explicatum Pars Metallurgica." 8vo. 1766. "An Eſſay on the Subjects of Chymiſtry, and their general Diviſions." 8vo. 1771. "A Defence of revealed Religion, in two Sermons preached in the cathedral church of Landaff. "A Charge to the Clergy of that Dioceſe, in June, 1795." Sermons and Tracts," one volume, 8vo.; and a "Charge to his Clergy, in 1798." A. T.

THE

THE HONOURABLE HENRY ERSKINE.

HENRY ERSKINE, the brother of David Earl of Buchan, is ſuppoſed to poſſeſs even a double portion of his genius. He received, in early youth, the advantage of that liberal and literary education which in Scotland is rarely denied even to the meaneſt yeoman; and has, till of late, been moſt ſolicitouſly beſtowed on the children of nobility. The fortune which he inherited was not ſufficient to enable him to bury his talents in frivolous idleneſs, and he choſe the practice of the law for his profeſſional purſuit. He was accordingly admitted, when very young, a member of the Scottiſh *Faculty of Advocates*, and diſtinguiſhed himſelf alike at the bar, in the ſocieties of his companions, and thoſe elegant and faſhionable aſſemblies unto which his high birth and perſonal accompliſhments introduced him, by an unrivalled ſprightlineſs of fancy, and quickneſs of apprehenſion. When all contended in wit, and ſportive humour, the ſupreme praiſe ſcarcely ever failed to be beſtowed on Henry Erſkine.

The elocution of the Scottiſh bar, even then, ſavoured not a little of the unction of Donald Cargill, or George Whitefield. Young Erſkine, in his firſt pleadings, diſplayed with an inimitable felicity a certain grace, livelineſs, and eaſe, which needed but to be heard, in order to put to ſhame thoſe vile compoſitions which had been before admired. Every thing concurred to promiſe him a moſt brilliant career. But it was feared, that parts ſo lively, and ſucceſs ſo ſplendid, might prove fatal, by ſeducing him into that negligence, and that ſelf-conceit, which, alas! too often blight the richeſt buds of opening genius. The anxiety of his friends, the invidious rivalry of his competitors, were alike ready to ſuggeſt that diſſipation, frivolity, or petulant ſelf-applauſe, muſt ſoon expoſe him to be outſtripped in his profeſſional career, by the moſt ſober ſpirited of his brother-advocates, in the ſame manner as the hare in the fable is ſaid to have been left behind by the ſnail. The event, however, proved far otherwiſe.

He

He had the good ſenſe to perceive that, in order to excel, he ought to dedicate himſelf with inflexible ardour and perſeverance to the attainment of profeſſional excellence, and acquire by unremitting practice that honourable independence of fortune which was neceſſary to give due luſtre to his talents. In a ſhort time he became an Elder, and a Speaker in the general aſſembly of the church of Scotland, the beſt theatre for deliberative eloquence which his native country affords. He vigilantly ſeized every occaſion for the exerciſe of his abilities, as a lawyer and a pleader; and ſoon convinced the world that he was determined to become a ſteady practitioner.

Having obtained in marriage the only daughter of Mr. Fullerton, a lady of a reſpectable family, and who brought him a very handſome fortune, that event tended happily to confirm him in thoſe habits of aſſiduity, for which he had begun before to be diſtinguiſhed.

Every ſucceſſive year now encreaſed his employment at the bar, and he was ſoon accounted, if not the very firſt, at leaſt in the foremoſt rank. Eminent as a wit, and an advocate, his political ſentiments could not long be a matter of indifference to the circle in which he moved. Like his brother, the Earl of Buchan, he avowed himſelf a ſtaunch and ardent Whig, and naturally gained the notice and the friendſhip of the moſt illuſtrious votaries of Whiggiſm, as well in England as in Scotland.

After the concluſion of the American war, when Charles Fox, along with that great political party of which he was the informing and guiding genius, were, for a ſhort time, maſters of the energies of the Britiſh government, Henry Erſkine was the man whom they choſe as the confidential lawyer of their adminiſtration in Scotland. They accordingly haſtened to appoint him *Lord Advocate*; and ſo ſplendid was his reputation as a lawyer, and ſo liberal his character as a man of integrity and honour, that the voice even of his political enemies, could ſcarcely refrain from applauding the nomination.

But

But Fox and his party were quickly driven from the helm; and Erſkine was diſmiſſed from his official ſituation, to make room for one who was, indeed, a very worthy young man, but deſtitute alike of powerful talents, and juridical experience. This loſs, however, could neither degrade the character of Erſkine, nor leſſen his practice at the bar. He had before been, and he ſtill continued to be, the lawyer, whom, on every great occaſion, both parties were anxious to retain as their firſt counſel.

Upon a vacancy in the office of Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, of which he has ſince been ſo ſhamefully bereft, that reſpectable body, perhaps the moſt illuſtrious juridical corporation in Europe, beſtowed the office on Henry Erſkine; with an eagerneſs which ſeemed to demonſtrate, that they conferred equal honour on him and themſelves by the choice.

Although a man of wit and talents, he has not been ſo imprudent as to laviſh his honourable gains in a careleſs profuſion of expence, inſtead of accumulating them for a patrimony to his children. Neither did the fatal ſchiſm in the Whig party, in conſequence of the diverſity of ſentiments with which the events of the French revolution were beheld in Britain, betray him into any political inconſiſtency. On the contrary, he ſtill firmly adhered to thoſe principles of freedom, which Fox and himſelf had been accuſtomed to conſider as the genuine grounds of the Britiſh revolution in 1688.

Since the commencement of the preſent war, a period, during which the colliſions of party-ſpirit are become more fierce and violent than before, various practices, too mean and diſhonourable to be worthy of aught but contemptuous oblivion, have been recurred to, in order to hurt the character and diminiſh the practice of Henry Erſkine, by men who could not win his virtue to their ſide, and who were deſirous to diminiſh that aſcendancy to which they could not aſpire in the career of generous emulation. But talents, fortune, and character, ſuch as his, may deſpiſe calumny, and ſmile at the impotence of malice.

LORD CHARLEMONT.

WHEN high rank is united with great virtues, and both are embelliſhed by learning, taſte, and talents, we then ſee man in his proudeſt form; we overlook or forget all that is weak, frail, and mortal, in human nature, and look up to him as a being of a ſuperior order. Such a character is the Earl of Charlemont; a nobleman, on whom, even in times of the moſt imminent danger, neither turbulence, faction, nor ſlander, has dared to caſt an aſperſion.

Of his Lordſhip's early life, a great part was ſpent abroad; charmed with the arts, the climate, and the language of Italy, it was for many years his favourite reſidence. With the reſt of the world, however, he was intimately acquainted; as at every court which a young nobleman generally viſits, he ſpent more than the uſual time. In all, he was reſpected and beloved; and he has been heard to ſay, that when he returned home, there was not a country in Europe in which he was not more known, and had not more of thoſe connections which ſweeten life, than in his native Ireland!

Home, however, his Lordſhip did at length return to, at about the age of thirty, and it is ſaid to have been haſtened by a diſorder contracted, as is ſuppoſed, from poiſon, adminiſtered by the jealouſy of a woman with whom he had an amorous intercourſe. Of this diſorder, the malignity had baffled the efficacy of all the medical ſkill which his Lordſhip found abroad, and it remained for the honour of an Iriſh phyſician, if not radically to remove the diſeaſe, at leaſt to alleviate its force, and preſerve a life which was to be the ornament and pride of his country. The phyſician in queſtion was the celebrated Dr. Lucas, a man diſtinguiſhed, not more by the ſucceſs of his medical exertions in his Lordſhip's caſe, than by the zeal and energy which he diſplayed as a political writer, and a popular repreſentative.

Having thus recovered a moderate ſhare of health by the ſkill of the Iriſh patriot, and preſcribed for himſelf a degree of

of temperance and ſtrictneſs of regimen which few men would have had the ſteadineſs to obſerve, his Lordſhip began to think of an heir. Although accuſtomed to view beauty in its moſt faſcinating forms amidſt the brilliancy of courts, the ſplendour of wealth, and the attractions of poliſhed manners, he did not ſeek theſe qualities in a wife. He married a young lady, the daughter of a provincial clergyman, poſſeſſed of good ſenſe, and a moſt amiable diſpoſition; therefore, better choſen than if recommended by high birth, riches, or beauty; in conſequence of this marriage, his Lordſhip has ſeveral children, the eldeſt of whom (Francis-William) is Lord Caulfield, a young nobleman of whom it is reaſonable to hope, that he will emulate the virtues of his father.

Lord Charlemont having felt, from his early reſidence abroad, the mortification of being a ſtranger in his native country, reſolved that his ſon ſhould have a domeſtic education. Lord Caulfield was therefore educated at the college of Dublin, where he diſtinguiſhes himſelf, not more for the poſſeſſion of a ſound and maſculine underſtanding, than for precocious induſtry, and mild, though ſomewhat gloomy, manners.

From the moment in which Lord Charlemont firſt embarked in public life, he has invariably promoted the beſt intereſts of the country. He affected not, however, in any inſtance, that popularity which follows rather the ſhewy and inſincere profeſſions of the demagogue, than the wiſe and well-judged meaſures of him who ſerves his country more from a motive of duty than a thirſt of fame. With him, patriotiſm was a virtue which he practiſed for its own ſake, and without attention to any conſequences, except the approbation of his own mind, and a ſtrict attention to the public welfare.

That his political conduct has uniformly reſulted from the pureſt motives, nothing, perhaps, could more ſtrongly prove, than the manner in which his Borough of Charlemont has been repreſented. Though his Lordſhip does not poſſeſs wealth ſufficient to render the ſeptennial receipt of 4000*l.*

(the uſual price for two miſ-repreſentatives !) an object of no importance, yet, in no one inſtance, has he yielded to the impulſe of venality; for he has never ſold, to the higheſt bidder, the office of legiſlator to his country! In the repreſentatives of his borough, his Lordſhip required only talents, and virtue; and it has been his peculiar good fortune to have always ſelected men eminently poſſeſſed of both.

Among thoſe who have repreſented Charlemont ſince it fell into his Lordſhip's hands, Mr. Grattan is the moſt conſpicuous. And it was the member for this Borough, who wrought the independence of Ireland. In the Houſe of Peers, his Lordſhip contributed to that great event, if not by his eloquence, for he is not a public ſpeaker, at leaſt by his vote, his influence, and his example.

Theſe virtues and ſervices of Lord Charlemont were neither unobſerved nor unrewarded by the public. He was accordingly raiſed by the unanimous voice of the people, more fully and faithfully expreſſed than it had been on any other occaſion, to the moſt honourable ſituation which it was in their power to beſtow, that of commander-in-chief of an army ſelf-appointed, and ſelf-paid, conſiſting of 80,000 freemen, including all the gentry and the nobility of the kingdom. To this command of the Old Volunteer army of Ireland, he was for ſeveral years ſucceſſively elected; nor did this relation between that extraordinary body of men and his Lordſhip ceaſe, until a difference of political opinion had ariſen, which induced him to reſign. That difference aroſe on the queſtion of admitting the Catholics to participate in the power of the ſtate. The idea was firſt broached in an addreſs from the volunteers of Ulſter to his Lordſhip, at a time when they had been reviewed by him in the neighbourhood of Belfaſt. He in very plain, but very polite and reſpectful terms, expreſſed, in his anſwer, his difference of opinion on that queſtion. A diſcordance of ſentiment, on a point of ſuch moment, muſt have been fatal to that cordiality of affection which had alone reconciled him to the troubleſome, though highly

highly honourable, ſituation to which he had been raiſed: he therefore ſhortly afterwards reſigned his command; and government having for ſome time before withdrawn its countenance from the volunteer army, it gradually dwindled into inſignificance.

Of a reform in the repreſentation his lordſhip has been long a friend, and was among the firſt of thoſe noblemen and gentlemen, who, when the queſtion was agitated, and the great difficulty appeared to be, how individuals ſhould be ſatisfied for the annihilation of their property, made an offer of a voluntary ſurrender of their boroughs to the public.

On the queſtion of the regency, too, he adopted that ſide which alone was thought compatible with the independence of Ireland. He was one of thoſe, who, in oppoſition to the partizans of Mr. Pitt, aſſerted the right of that kingdom to appoint its own regent; and, as they conſtituted a majority in the two houſes, they accordingly offered the regency to the heir apparent. For this, and ſome other political offences, he was ſhortly afterwards removed from the government of the county of Armagh, an office to which he might be almoſt ſaid to have an hereditary right.

In a mind like that of his lordſhip, cultivated, vigorous, and pure, error is ſeldom a plant of perennial growth. The opinion which he ſo honeſtly entertained, and ſo boldly avowed to the volunteer army of 1784, he ſeems to have ſince changed for thoſe of a more liberal complexion, as he has ſince ſupported the Catholic claim to the elective franchiſe, which parliament acceded to in 1796, and is at preſent an advocate for what is called *catholic emancipation.*

Of that ſyſtem of coercion which preceded the late inſurrection in Ireland, of the burning of villages, hanging their inhabitants, tranſporting perſons ſuſpected without trial, ſtrangling and whipping to extort confeſſion, and billeting the military at free quarters in diſtricts in which individuals had been diſorderly, his lordſhip has been uniformly the declared enemy. He, therefore, was one of the very few

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who ſupported Lord Moira in his parliamentary reprobation of theſe meaſures, and in recommending thoſe of peace and conciliation. Nothing, however, can be more remote from his character, than that of a factious man, or a ſyſtematic oppoſitioniſt. He has ſupported Great Britain in the war, merely becauſe Great Britain was engaged in it, without any relation to the abſtract merit of the conteſt; and he has acceded chearfully to every law, and every meaſure, which the government thought neceſſary, againſt the aſſault of foreign force or domeſtic diſaffection.

Unexceptionable, however, as Lord Charlemont's political conduct has been, it is not as a politician that he is excluſively entitled to our regard. He is more highly eſtimable, perhaps, as a man of taſte and literature. As a general ſcholar, he has not his equal in the Iriſh Peerage. Poſſeſſing a reſpectable knowledge of the learned languages, he is alſo intimately acquainted with thoſe of modern Europe, particularly the Italian, in which he is an adept. To his love of letters, Ireland owes, in a great meaſure, the eſtabliſhment of the only literary ſociety (except the univerſity) which ſhe poſſeſſes, namely, the Royal Iriſh Academy, which was incorporated by royal charter in 1786, and of which his lordſhip has, ſince its foundation, been annually elected preſident. Of this office, he diſcharges the duties, *con amore*, conſtantly attending its meetings, unleſs when ill health prevents, preſiding with a father's care over its concerns, and occaſionally contributing to fill the pages of its tranſactions. In theſe volumes, his lordſhip has publiſhed three eſſays, which are highly reſpectable; one on a conteſted paſſage in Herodotus; another on an ancient cuſtom at Meteline, with conſiderations on its origin; and a third on the antiquity of the Woollen manufacture in Ireland, which he has proved from ſome paſſages in the Italian poets.

Theſe, however, conſtitute but a ſmall part of what his lordſhip has written. To ſome of his friends he has ſhewn, at various times, materials for larger works. With them, it

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is to be feared, the public will not be favoured during his life; and they will, probably, be left to the mercy of a posthumous editor.

Among the lovers and the judges of the fine arts, he holds a very conspicuous rank. At his house in Rutland-square, Dublin, is to be seen a most respectable collection of the great masters in painting and sculpture, both ancient and modern; and of his taste in architecture, his temple of Marino, within a couple of miles of the metropolis, is a beautiful specimen.

In parliament he has never been a speaker, he seems to want nerves for an orator, and to be solicitous rather of the pleasures of study, than of those raptures which result from the involuntary bursts of an applauding auditory. In conversation he is communicative, affable, and cheerful, in an extraordinary degree; equally apt to catch as to impart satisfaction: nor is it the frippery of fancy which escapes him; the effusions of his full mind flow like the waters of a deep river, at once placid and majestic, uniform and profound.

Of his time he is remarkably economical; every hour has its allotted occupation, nor is this arrangement varied but on occasions of considerable moment. So regular is he even in his rides, that you might ascertain the time of the day to a minute by the spot on which you find him. His figure is exceedingly venerable, and striking. Upwards of sixty, his long grey hairs, and bending form, give him the appearance of much greater age, while the placidity of his countenance irresistibly impresses the idea, that wisdom and virtue have been the companions of his life. It is a remarkable circumstance, that the precarious state of his health, since his partial recovery from the disaster of his youth, has made it necessary for him to use the cold bath throughout the year; and, even in the depth of the severest winter, he has not dared to intermit the practice.

HENRY

HENRY GRATTAN.

HENRY GRATTAN was born in the capital of Ireland, about the year 1751. His father, an eminent barriſter, though poſſeſſing conſiderable talents, and deriving a competent ſhare of practice, from the good opinion entertained of his ſkill and integrity by the citizens of Dublin, yet never roſe to any high legal ſituation. The Recorderſhip of the city, a place at that time worth about 600*l. per annum*, and to which the corporation elect, was the only office he ever filled. To wealth accumulated by the induſtry or the ſucceſs of his anceſtors, Henry, therefore, could not look; he was taught early to depend for his future fame and fortune on his own exertions.

At the uſual time he was entered a ſtudent of Trinity College, Dublin, where he was ſoon diſtinguiſhed as the powerful competitor of two claſs-fellows, whoſe good fortune and talents have ſince raiſed them to the higheſt ſituations in the ſtate, the Earl of Clare, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and Mr. Foſter, the Speaker of the Houſe of Commons.

Of ſome of the moſt ſhining characters which the Dublin Univerſity has given to the world, it has been obſerved, that during their reſidence in that ſeminary their talents were not exerciſed, nor their powers known: Mr. Edmund Burke exhibits one memorable inſtance in behalf of this aſſertion: but in reſpect to Mr. G. and his celebrated contemporaries, that colliſion which reſults from a rivalry of acquirements and talents, called forth a full exertion of the mental faculties, and they were therefore diſtinguiſhed as men poſſeſſing firſt-rate parts, before they were called to exhibit them on the theatre of life. After taking a degree, Mr. G. was, in 1772, called to the Iriſh bar, and for a few years attended the four courts with an empty bag, and a mind too elaſtic to be confined to the forms of pleading, and too liberal to be occupied by the purſuits of a mere lawyer,

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Diſguſted at laſt with a profeſſion, in which he perceived he could never riſe but by habits to which he could not crouch, he retired, not wealthy, but poſſeſſing from his father, who was now dead, a patrimony, which, with economy, might have ſecured him independence. It was not long before he was made known to Lord Charlemont, who had for ſome time been returned to Ireland. By his Lordſhip, who has always ſhewn equal ſagacity in diſcovering and zeal in promoting genius, he was returned to parliament for his borough of Charlemont. Entering into legiſlature under ſuch auſpices, it was natural to expect that Mr. G. would become the advocate of his then ſuffering and dependent country. Ireland, indeed, at that time, was in a ſtate of perfect humiliation. being conſidered merely as a province to the ſiſter country. Her legiſlature was a petty council, incapable of originating laws; and her courts of juſtice were ſubordinate to thoſe of England, and incompetent to a final deciſion: deſtitute of foreign commerce, from which ſhe had been excluded by Britiſh monopoly, her manufactures were cruſhed by the weight of Britiſh competition, and the induſtry of her people checked from want of encouragement to excite it; in ſhort, diſcontent, bankruptcy, and wretchedneſs covered the face of the country.

To evils of ſuch magnitude, and which the calamities brought on by the unfortunate conteſt with America, greatly aggravated, the narrow policy of the times was applying petty palliatives. Subſcriptions were collected, to keep the artificers from famiſhing; aſſociations were formed to wear only domeſtic manufactures; and parliament itſelf looked, for ſome time, no further than to alleviate the preſſure of the immediate evil. Mr. G. however, whoſe mind was formed to embrace ſomething beyond preſent objects; who was accuſtomed to trace effects to their cauſes; perceived that the root of thoſe calamities was not a temporary ſtagnation of trade from the American war, but rather to be found in the unjuſt reſtraints impoſed by Great Britain on the

the exertions of the country; and that to attempt their cure by temporary expedients, would be to roll up the ſtone of Syſiphus.

He was the firſt, therefore, who had the boldneſs and the wiſdom to urge the legiſlature to complain of thoſe reſtraints; his efforts were ſeconded by the unanimous voice of the country; and ſuch was the efficacy of a political truth, thus urged, and thus ſupported, that even the whole force of Britiſh influence was found unequal to reſiſt it. The Iriſh legiſlature adopted, and decreed the ſentiment; and after ſome heſitation on the part of the Britiſh legiſlature, the commerce of Ireland was in part opened to her children. A temporary gleam of ſatisfaction was ſhed over the country by this *conceſſion*, as it was called, of the Britiſh parliament: for ſo accuſtomed had the people been to excluſion, to penalties, and reſtriction, that a relaxation or ſuſpenſion of any of theſe was looked on as the conferring of a poſitive benefit, rather than the ceſſation of an actual injury.

Mr. G.'s name was now become an object of adoration to the people, and by the volunteer aſſociations, which the dangers of the war had called forth, he was looked up to with peculiar reſpect. In this ſtate of affairs, the re-action of popularity upon patriotiſm ſeemed to impart new energy to his mind.

Mr. G. continued to exert himſelf with indefatigable aſſiduity in the ſenate, and by leading the mind of the public, and even of the legiſlature itſelf, to the conſideration of national rights, and the actual political ſituation of their common country, with reſpect to England, he was clearing the way for that meaſure which they meditated—a declaration of the legiſlature in favour of national independence.

By obtaining freedom of commerce for the country, he had already, indeed, done much toward the attainment of the great object; for he had removed the key-ſtone of the arch, and thus weakened the coheſion of the whole fabric—he had introduced a ſpirit of innovation upon the old

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ſyſtem of Britiſh domination, and the vigour with which innovations on ſuch ſyſtems are oppoſed, proves their malign efficacy. Mr, G. therefore, who obſerved with pleaſure, no doubt, the operation of thoſe cauſes on the public mind, endeavoured by an induſtrious exertion of oratorical powers in the ſenate, to increaſe their force, and ſecond their effect. His eloquence, of a caſt more warm and animated than either parliament or the people had uſually felt, and exerted upon ſubjects reſpecting which the human mind is ſuſceptible of the greateſt degree of enthuſiaſtic fervor, was gratified by complete ſucceſs. Directed by a ſagacious underſtanding, which could catch the moment propitious to exertion, and proportion its zeal to its object, his parliamentary ſpeeches taught a ſubjugated nation to pant for independence; while public voice, highly animated on this ſubject, and ſeconded by the loud aſſent of 80,000 men in arms (for to ſo many did the volunteer aſſociations amount!), kindled, even in the cold boſom of parliament itſelf, a deſire to aſſert their dignity, and reſcue its authority from the gripe of Britiſh uſurpation.

Of this ſentiment, ſo novel in an Iriſh legiſlature, that had long forgotten the pride of independence—of this energy, which ariſing from extrinſic circumſtances, rather than a native and internal principle of virtue, was therefore likely ſoon to vaniſh, when thoſe circumſtances ſhould ceaſe to exiſt—Mr. G. availed himſelf; he caught, as he inſpired, the generous flame; and by one of thoſe extraordinary diſplays of impaſſioned eloquence, to which even the eloquent cannot riſe, but when a momentous object ſeems to furniſh adequate powers, he gave riſe to the celebrated declaration, that the King, Lords, and Commons of Ireland only, could make laws to bind Ireland in any caſe whatſoever.

Mr. Grattan's popularity was now at its *acmé*. The achievement of a nation's independence by an individual, unaided by any force or any influence but that which genius

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and which truth afford, was conſidered as the reſult of talents and of virtue almoſt above the lot of humanity. The legiſlature itſelf ſeemed for once to participate in the feelings of the people, for in the fervor of admiration, it was propoſed that £.100,000 ſhould be voted to him, as a mark of approbation.

In its full extent, this propoſition was not adopted, for on a ſubſequent ſitting, when the vote was before the Committee, they reduced it to £50,000; to that amount, however, the grant was confirmed, and Mr. G. actually received the money.

The declaration of rights of the Iriſh legiſlature, however unwelcome it muſt have been to the miniſter and parliament of England, was received there with that kind of acquieſcence with which we aſſent to what is inevitable. A negociation was immediately inſtituted between the two nations, which terminated in the repeal of the 6th of Geo. I. the act by which the Britiſh Parliament declared its right to bind Ireland by Britiſh ſtatutes.

On the ſubject of this repeal, a queſtion aroſe, which ſuſpended, for a conſiderable time, Mr. Grattan's popularity. It was contended by Mr. Flood, a gentleman, who, though he did not originate the meaſure of declaring the legiſlative independence of the country, yet co-operated to promote it, that as the 6th of Geo. I. was an act only declaratory of a right, aſſerted by the Britiſh Parliament to have been veſted in it prior to the enaction of that ſtatute, the "ſimple repeal" of the ſtatute did not involve a renunciation of the right; and he inſiſted, that notwithſtanding that repeal, Great Britain might, and from her former conduct towards Ireland probably would, reſume the exerciſe of it. He therefore adviſed the legiſlature to demand of the Britiſh parliament, a full and explicit renunciation of all right in future to bind Ireland. This opinion was adopted by the people; and carrying with it all the force which reaſon or experience

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can give to a propoſition in politics, met very powerful ſupport even in both houſes of parliament. Mr. G. whoſe ſagacity this objection to a ſimple repeal had eluded, and who, from a principle of vanity, perhaps, which has its ſtrong hold even in minds of the firſt claſs, affected the excluſive honour of originating and conducting the emancipation of his country, applied all his power of reaſon, of ſophiſtry, and of eloquence, to combat this doctrine of Mr. Flood.

He contended, that the repeal of a declaratory law, accompanied by ſuch circumſtances as attended that of this, muſt be conſidered, as implying a renunciation of the right; but that, even if it were not ſo, and that Great Britain ſhould be ſo unjuſt and impolitic as to reſume the right, when ſhe ſhould recover means to ſupport it by power, an explicit renunciation would be but a ſlender defence againſt injuſtice, ſupported by force; that in ſuch circumſtances, the true ſecurity of the people would conſiſt, not in an act of parliament, but in that patriotic energy which would enable them to defend, as it had already enabled them to aſſert, their independence; and that to force Great Britain, in this her hour of diſtreſs, to confeſs herſelf an uſurper, by an expreſs renunciation of a right which ſhe had exerciſed, would be as ungenerous to her, as it would be uſeleſs to Ireland.

With the people theſe arguments had no weight, and in the ſenate they were borne down by the irreſiſtible force of truth and experience, ſeconded by the powerful and logical eloquence of Mr. Flood. In popular eſtimation, indeed, Mr. G's character had been falling for ſome time; it was certain he had received the money which parliament had voted him; and it was inſinuated, that for the prompt payment of it, and other conſiderations, he had engaged with adminiſtration to counteract the independence which his former exertions had obtained. But in ſuch inſinuations there is the beſt reaſon to believe there was no truth. It is, however, certain, that in the conteſt with Mr. Flood, on the efficiency of a ſim-

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ple repeal, Mr. G. not only reaſoned weakly, but that in many inſtances, connected with that diſpute, he acted intemperately. On one occaſion particularly, he pronounced a philippic againſt Mr. Flood, which was leſs diſtinguiſhed by genius and point, than by acerbity and virulence. His antagoniſt replied, perhaps in a ſtyle too much like that of his opponent. Both parties immediately left the Houſe of Commons, but were prevented from terminating the conteſt in a duel, by being inſtantly put under arreſt, and bound in a large ſum to keep the peace. Mr. Flood, in the courſe of the next evening, pronounced one of his beſt ſpeeches, containing a hiſtory and defence of his former political life, which had been on the preceding night violently arraigned by Mr. Grattan. Mr. G. endeavoured to reply, but was prevented by the clamours of the Houſe.

Fruſtrated in the hope of carrying on excluſively to its completion, a revolution (for ſuch it may be called) which he had ſo ſucceſsfully and honourably commenced, and finding the tide of popularity now running ſtrong againſt him, Mr. G. ſeems for tome time to have completely ſecluded himſelf from politics. During this interval, he married a lady of the name of Fitzgerald, not, however, as the name would indicate, of the Leinſter family, but one who poſſeſſed qualities much more valuable than thoſe of high birth or great connections, for ſhe is a woman of the moſt angelic diſpoſition, and of whom Mr. G. remains, after a lapſe of ſo many years, what he had been in a very high degree before his marriage, an enamoured lover.

Though Mr. G. during this period, did not take an active part in political affairs, he remained ſtill in parliament, and voted as his conſcience bade, ſometimes with and ſometimes againſt the miniſter. It is towards the cloſe of the year 1785, when under cover of a commercial arrangement, it was ſuppoſed a deſign had been formed by the Britiſh miniſtry to ſubvert the newly-acquired independence of the Iriſh parlia-

parliament, that we find Mr. G. again alert and vigilant at his poſt. Of the celebrated propoſals which were then offered to the Houſe of Commons in Ireland, by an agent of the crown, and which are ſtill remembered and execrated in that country by the name of "Orde's Propoſitions," one was, "that the Parliament of Ireland, in conſideration of "being admitted to participate equally with Great Britain "in all commercial advantages, ſhould, from time to time, "*adopt* and *enact* all ſuch acts of the Britiſh Parliament as "ſhould relate to the regulaton or management of her com-"merce, &c." This, it was contended, would ſink the Parliament of Ireland into a mere regiſter to the Britiſh Legiſlature. Whether or no this would really be the caſe, or whether there was any thing unreaſonable in ſtipulating that the country, which was admitted to ſhare in the commerce of another, ſhould adopt the ſame commercial regulations as this latter; it is certain, that this opinion was entertained not only by the public in general, but by ſome of the ableſt men in both houſes, and among them by Mr. G. who gave to the whole ſyſtem the moſt unqualified and ſtrenuous oppoſition. This oppoſition proved ſucceſsful, the meaſure was relinquiſhed, and Mr. G. thenceforward continued to reſiſt, with the moſt zealous and preſerving firmneſs, what he called the principles of the "Old Court; principles which he looked on as tending to degrade Ireland, by corruption and influence, to the ſame deſpicable and miſerable ſtate in which ſhe had been reduced previouſly to the year 1783.

From this period, we find Mr. G. an active leader of the country party in the houſe of Commons; loved by the people, and dreaded by the cabinet. His popularity, which had ſo ſuddenly ſunk, on his acceptance of the parliamentary boon, and his ſupport of the ſimple repeal, had now riſen to its former level; and the nation found, that notwithſtanding one unfortunate deviation, he was ſtill an upright and independent ſenator. Among the various meaſures which now occupied his attention, was the eſtabliſh-

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ment of a proviſion for the clergy, independent of tythes. For many years the peaſantry of the ſouth of Ireland, who were excluſively catholics, had been diſcontented, not ſo much with the payment of tythes to proteſtant paſtors, as with the rigid and oppreſſive manner in which they had been collected by proctors and tythe-farmers. That portion of the country had been kept by this cauſe for almoſt half a century in diſturbance; and in ſome inſtances it had affected the province of Ulſter. Mr. G. propoſed a meaſure which would have removed every diſcontent, and at the ſame time have ſecured a proviſion for the clergy equal to that which they then poſſeſſed, eaſy and certain to them, and to the peaſantry neither oppreſſive nor unpleaſant. This plan was, however, oppoſed by the collective influence of the eſtabliſhed church, and of courſe rejected by the legiſlature. Another meaſure which he propoſed to Parliament about the ſame time, viz.—a bill to promote the improvement of barren land, by exempting reclaimed ground from the payment of tythe, for ſeven years—was but little calculated to reſtore the favour of the prieſthood; they accordingly reſiſted and defeated the project, and continued thenceforward to hate, if not to calumniate, its author.

The Whig-club had for ſome time become a political body of conſiderable conſideration. Mr. G. was one of the firſt, if not the very firſt member of it, in point of talent and popularity. At his inſtance it was that the members of the club, who had been ſince its inſtitution the advocates of a liberal ſyſtem, which they conſidered neceſſary to the ſecurity of the conſtitution and independence of the country, came now to a reſolution, by which they publicly pledged themſelves never to accept office under any adminiſtration, which ſhould not concede certain meaſures to the people:—theſe conſiſted principally of a penſion-bill, a bill to make the great officers of the crown reſponſible for their advice and meaſures, another to prevent revenue officers from voting at elections, a place-bill, &c.

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This explicit declaration of a ſincere and fixed purpoſe reſpecting thoſe eſſential ſubjects, gave the ſociety much weight with the public, and enabled them, after a long oppoſition on the part of adminiſtration, to effect their purpoſe; a penſion bill, a plea bill, a reſponſibility-bill, were at laſt yielded by the court, as conceſſions of the firſt importance, though they had for ſo many years reſiſted them as unneceſſary and unwiſe.

The celebrity which Mr. G. had attained by his oppoſition to Mr. Orde's ſyſtem, and his ſubſequent exertions in the popular cauſe, procured for him, in the year 1790, an honourable and eaſy election, as repreſentative for the metropolis.

During the exiſtence of the parliament which then commenced, there occurred, however, a queſtion, on which Mr. G. and a very conſiderable proportion of his conſtituents materially differed; this was, the claim of the catholics to the elective franchiſe. From his firſt entrance into parliament, with a mind as liberal as it was enlightened, he had always been the decided friend of every meaſure which tended to aboliſh thoſe political diſtinctions, which were founded only on a difference of religious tenets; for he conceived that ſuch diſtinctions had retarded the progreſs of the country towards civilization and induſtry.

The corporation of the city of Dublin, on the contrary, prone, by ſituation, and habit, to religious bigotry, looked on the catholics at once with ſuſpicion and contempt. Enjoying a monopoly of municipal honour and emoluments, by the excluſion of all who profeſſed a different faith from the franchiſes of the capital, they conſidered every attempt to reſtore them to thoſe franchiſes as an attack on their property, or a violation of their rights. Beſides theſe cauſes the adminiſtration had, by ſome recent inſtitutions, obtained a paramount influence in the corporation; and to perpetuate religious diſtinc-

ons, which had hitherto kept Ireland weak, was ſtill the court policy. This influence, therefore, operating in conjunction with other cauſes, rendered the municipal officers of Dublin incapable of participating in that increaſed liberality of ſentiment which had now every where begun to diſſipate prejudice and diſpel bigotry. On the queſtion of admitting the catholics to the privileges of the conſtitution, the corporation and Mr. G. accordingly differed; and had not circumſtances occurred, which prevented him from becoming again a candidate for the capital, there can be no doubt that he would not have been a ſecond time elected its repreſentative.

The war with France had taken place; Mr Grattan approved of it, or rather he conſidered Ireland as bound with all its might to aſſiſt Great Britain when once engaged in the conteſt. This at leaſt was the opinion he entertained during the ſhort adminiſtration of Lord Fitzwilliam; and in this opinion he remained, until he found that the continuation of hoſtilities threatened the empire with ruin, either from the incapacity of thoſe by whom it was conducted, or the murmurs which it occaſioned. In Ireland, indeed, diſcontent had been ſpreading with incalculable velocity, and deepening as it ſpread. The pertinacity and inſolence with which adminiſtration had rejected the petitions of the catholics, and the rapidity and inconſiſtency with which they granted the prayer of thoſe petitions, at the firſt ſuggeſtion of the Britiſh cabinet; the obſtinacy with which they refuſed ever to hear of reform, the advocates of which were blackened with abuſe, and calumniated as traitors; the enormous encreaſe of court-influence, by the ſhameleſs and wanton increaſe of ſinecure offices, the laviſh profuſion of titles, and above all, the trick which it was ſuppoſed the Britiſh cabinet had played off on Ireland, by ſending Lord Fitzwilliam with conceſſions which were revoked when the ſupply

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was voted; all these causes had already generated a degree of discontent in the country, of which no instance had been known in former times. The celebrated Society of United Irishmen, who associated (whatever their real principles might have been) under the pretext of reform, derived from these discontents new vigour: they had disseminated their principles through the island, and they were already embraced, by a great portion of the population of the country.

Mr. G. perceiving the danger in which the state was involved by this system of ministers, constantly resisted it with all his power. He was seconded by a small, but active and able opposition, which left no exertion untried to reconcile the court and the country, by advising measures which would have ranged every moderate and good man on the side of parliament and the throne, and thus have weakened the republican and French factions which had now become so powerful. These efforts were, unfortunately, not successful. Instead of conciliating, administration continued to exasperate; and scorning to resort to lenitives, applied the most powerful caustics: for every measure of moderation, or concession, which was proposed by Mr. G. and his party, one of severity and coercion was substituted, until the cabinet ultimately arrived at military law, and free quarters! At that critical moment, Mr. G. who could no longer hope, by his presence in the senate, to serve his country, seceded; and at the close of the parliament published a very eloquent and spirited address to his former constituents, accounting for his past conduct, and formally declining to accept of a seat in the legislature.

Such are the leading facts which have marked the life of one who, whatever may be thought of him by his opponents, while the fever of politics continues to agitate the human mind, will have his merits and defects ex-

amined fairly by poſterity, and, in all probability, be acknowledged by them as a great man.

Of his private life there is little generally known, becauſe little has occurred in it to intereſt attention. It has paſſed on in a ſmooth manner, marked equally by the practice of every conjugal and domeſtic virtue. If there be any of his good qualities which verge on the confines of vice, it is his economy, of which it has been aſſerted that it approaches towards penurioufneſs, if it does not reach that point. It has been often ſaid, that though he received in early life, from the liberality of his country, a very handſome addition to his patrimony, he never diſplayed, either in private or public, a munificent diſpoſition. But it ſhould be remembered, that the fortune which Mr. G. obtained then, conſtituted nearly the whole of his acquiſitions: he practiſed in no profeſſion, he accepted no place, and he ſoon ſaw a young family riſing around him, for which the whole was not a very ample proviſion: for he has four children; the eldeſt a ſon of fifteen years of age.

In private life, Mr. G. diſplays manners that are in a high degree pleaſing. Wit he ſeems not to poſſeſs, and he has a caſt of mind too lofty for humour; but if he does not "ſet the table in a roar," or dazzle with the radiance of fancy, he diffuſes over the convivial hour the mild charms of good-humour, and ſoftens ſociety with unaſſuming gentleneſs.

In converſation he appears to great advantage; for, with a mind well ſtored with uſeful learning, and converſant on every topic which occurs, he has a felicity of expreſſion, which communicates his meaning in the moſt conciſe and impreſſive manner: he is not argumentative, but when an argument is inſtituted, his opinions are urged with great modeſty, but with great ſtrength, and

when

when victor in the conteſt, he generally relinquiſhes the field to the vanquiſhed.

Of Mr. G's political opinions, the complexion may be known from the meaſures which he has ſupported, and the tenor of his parliamentary conduct. As they have ſtruck the mind of the writer, they appear to be ſtrongly *monarchical*, and *ariſtocratical* only ſo far as our conſtitution requires them to be; at the ſame time leaning towards a perpetuity of union between the two countries, and yet decidedly adverſe to the exiſtence of any Britiſh influence in Ireland diſtinct from that which the union of the two crowns on the head of a Britiſh prince renders indiſpenſable. That he ſhould, therefore, be connected with a ſociety of men whoſe aim was ſeparation from England, and the eſtabliſhment of an Iriſh Republic, ſeems in the higheſt degree, improbable. The luſtre of his name, however, has ſuffered a temporary eclipſe; and ſo ſhort-lived is municipal gratitude, that it has actually been expunged from a city which he has rendered flouriſhing*. At the very ſame time it was ſtruck from the liſt of privy-counſellors.

As a public ſpeaker, Mr. G. ranks in the higheſt claſs. In his ſpeeches there is a grandeur which marks a mind of a ſuperior order, and enforces at once, reverence and admiration. On every ſubject which he treats, he throws a radiance that enlightens without dazzling; and while it aſſiſts the judgment, delights the imagination. His ſtyle is always peculiar, for it varies its character with the occaſion. At one time cloſe and energetic, it concentrates the force of his argument, and compels conviction; at another, diffuſe, lofty and magnificent, it ap-

* "*Cork, Sept.* 29.—By order of the Mayor, Sheriffs, and Common-Council of the city of Cork, the public are deſired to take notice, that the ſtreet hitherto named *Grattan-ſtreet*, is, in future, to be called *Duncan-ſtreet*.

plies

plies itſelf to every faculty of the mind, charms our fancy, influences our will, and convinces our underſtanding. At all times his manner is animated with a pleaſing warmth, which renders it impoſſible to hear him without intereſt; but, on ſome occaſions, he exerts a power which is irreſiſtible. Proſtitution, under its influence, forgets for a moment the voice of the miniſter, and place, penſion, and peerage, have but a feeble hold even of the moſt degenerate.

To the excellence of his ſtyle he does not add the graces of action; it is forcible indeed, and ſometimes expreſſive, but it is ſeldom elegant, and never pleaſing. To invective, in which Mr. G. has ſometimes deigned to have recourſe, his manner is better adapted than to the ſedateneſs of cool diſquiſition; and yet invective is not that in which he principally excels: he is more fitted by nature, and happily the ſituation he has filled has more frequently called him, to defend the rights of nations, and to pourtray the hopes, the fears, the expectations of magnanimous people, than to deſcend to a wordy conteſt with individuals; though, when that conteſt has been inſtituted, the weapons of Mr. G. have been found ſharp, not poliſhed, and capable of inflicting wounds which refuſe to be healed.

SIR

SIR WILLIAM SYDNEY SMYTH.

THE great Admiral Howard, who lived in the reign of King Henry the eighth, was wont to ſay, that " a certain portion of madneſs was neceſſary to enter into the compoſition of an Engliſh ſeaman." We know not whether this aſſertion ought to be admitted in its full extent; yet the fact is, that ſome of our moſt celebrated naval characters have obtained renown for deeds which appear to cold-blooded men to ſavour of deſperation, as well as of valour.

It is not our intention to detract from any man's merits, who has been, or is now, engaged in the ſervice of his country, either by ſea or land; but we are forced to ſay, that our admiration is not ſo much excited by thoſe dazzling exploits which pleaſe the populace, as by the more ſteady and extenſive operations of ſuch magnanimous, but prudent commanders, who are rather bent upon general good, than romantic adventures. Each, however, has his portion of merit; and he who hazards his perſon with alacrity, in behalf of the country for which he fights, muſt always claim our reſpect.

Sir William Sydney Smyth was born in the metropolis, A. D. 1764. His * father was a captain in the army, and his mother the daughter of Mr. Wilkinſon, a merchant of great eminence in the city. This match was ſo hoſtile to Mr. Wilkinſon's ſentiments, that he not only diſcarded Mrs. Smith in his life-time, but at his death left his whole fortune, which was very conſiderable, to his other daughter, the preſent Lady Camelford.

The

* Captain Smith was *aid-de-camp* to Lord George Germaine, at the battle of Minden, and was examined as an evidence on his trial. His teſtimony on that occaſion is ſaid to have ſaved the life of his protector.

Having encountered ſome obloquy, in conſequence of his zeal, the Duke of Dorſet, who was greatly attached to his younger ſon, Lord George, very properly

The ſubject of the preſent notice was educated under Dr. Knox, at Tunbridge-ſchool; and at an early age was put on board a man-of-war, which profeſſion he had adopted for himſelf. He roſe rapidly, and at the age of ſixteen was fifth lieutenant of the Alcide of ſeventy-four guns. He was made poſt-captain in 1783, at which time the reſtoration of peace prevented him from exerciſing his active ſpirit in the ſervice of his country.

When the war broke out between Ruſſia and Sweden in the year 1788, Captain Smith obtained permiſſion from the Engliſh government to enter into the navy of the latter power, by which he was honoured with a diſtinguiſhed command.

During this conteſt, he gave ſuch ſatisfaction to the court of Sweden by his important ſervices, that the honour of knighthood was conferred upon him; which, however, has not been confirmed by his own ſovereign.

On the termination of that war, he returned to his native country, and ſoon after ſet out on his travels through various parts of Europe.

When hoſtilities broke out between England and France he was in Italy; and on Lord Hood's getting poſſeſſion of Toulon, Captain Smith went thither and volunteered on board the Britiſh fleet. In the ſubſequent evacuation of that place, he was entruſted with the dangerous but important, ſervice, of ſetting fire to the ſhips, dock-yards, and arſenal, which he performed with ſuch aſtoniſhing ſkill, boldneſs, and ſucceſs, as to call forth the warmeſt encomiums from Lord Hood in his account of that tranſaction to the admiralty.

perly took captain S. into favour; and among other gifts, preſented him with a grant of land at the foot of Dover-caſtle, on which he has built a whimſical houſe. Some adjoining apartments are excavated from the rock, and the kitchen, &c. are roofed with boats. There is a tower, called "Sir Sydney's look-out;" and the writer of this has been informed, that his father, who is a ſtaunch methodiſt, has lately erected a chapel there.

On

On his return to England, he had the command of the Diamond frigate beſtowed on him, with which he greatly annoyed the enemy on their own coaſt, and made ſeveral important and valuable captures. He had afterwards ſome other frigates put under his direction, as commodore; with which ſquadron he performed ſome eſſential ſervices, particularly in attacking a French convoy at Herqui, where he landed and demoliſhed the fortifications. At one time Sir Sydney went with his ſingle frigate into Breſt harbour, and having reconnoitred the ſtate of the enemy's ſhips, came out to ſea without ſuſpicion. He was enabled to do this, by the very fluent manner with which he ſpeaks the French language.

At length, however, his enterprizing ſpirit, unfortunately, brought him into a very diſagreeable ſituation. Being off Havre-de-Grace, April 18, 1796, he captured an armed veſſel in the outer harbour; but the tide making ſtrong up the Seine, ſhe was driven by the force of the current near the forts. When night came on, Sir Sydney, who was determined not to loſe his prize, manned and armed his ſmall craft, and went with them to bring her off. He ſucceeded in boarding her, and was towing her down the river, when an alarm was given, and ſeveral gun-boats proceeded to cut the veſſel off. After an obſtinate reſiſtance, Sir Sydney was at length taken, together with ſixteen of his crew, and three of his officers.

The French were happy at having gained poſſeſſion of one who had been ſo great an eye-ſore to them, and conveyed him to the capital, where he was kept in cloſe confinement, without ever being ſuffered to be at large upon his parole. The Engliſh government, deſirous of his releaſe, ſent over Captain Bergeret, commander of *La Virginie*, in July following, to be exchanged for him; but the Directory refuſing to accede to the terms, the French captain

captain returned, saying, "he preferred death to dishonour." It was actually one time in contemplation to try Sir Sydney as a spy and incendiary, to which the Directory were led in consequence of his conduct at Toulon!

After a long and most rigid confinement, he at length effected his escape, April 24, 1798, from Paris, and arrived in London May 6th following. The manner in which this occurred, was represented in the papers as most extraordinary, and little short of miraculous. It was stated, that as the officers were conveying him from one prison to another, a crowd in the street occasioned the carriage to stop, on which some one opened the door, and drew Sir Sydney out, who passed unmolested through the people, and got into the suburbs; whence, by a circuitous course, with an emigrant gentleman, he arrived on the sea-coast, where they took to an open boat; and after being at sea for some considerable time, were taken up by a British frigate, which landed him and his companion in Old England. It is not unlikely that the French government took this curious method of releasing him; for it is hardly within the line of probability that such a man should have escaped from his keepers in one of the public streets of Paris, and that too in open day, without the connivance of persons in power.

His being taken at first was the effect of his own imprudence, for certainly there were officers in his ship competent enough to the service of boarding and bringing away a paltry privateer, without the necessity of the captain's going in person. Sir Sydney has since been appointed to the command of *Le Tigre*, a ship of 80 guns, taken from the French; and in which he has just sailed to the Mediterranean.

THE

THE REV. THOMAS HAWEIS, LL.D. AND M.D.

THIS gentleman is entitled to a place in our collection, as well on account of his reſpectability as a man of letters, as his being now at the head of that numerous and highly diſtinguiſhed claſs of Chriſtians, commonly called the Calviniſtical Methodiſts.

Dr. Haweis is a native of Truro in Cornwall, and was educated at the free grammar-ſchool in that town, where he had for his contemporary the celebrated Samuel Foote, commonly called the Engliſh Ariſtophanes. After receiving a good claſſical education, he was put apprentice to an eminent ſurgeon and appothecary in his native place, and ſerved his time with great credit, on account of his fidelity and application.

Mr. Samuel Walker was at that time curate of Truro, and young Mr. Haweis was ſo affected with the preaching and character of that exemplary man, that his whole mind became impreſſed with the love of religion, and the deſire of being a miniſter of the goſpel. His friends were not willing to croſs his inclinations, and he was therefore permitted to go to the Univerſity of Oxford, where he was entered of Magdalen-Hall, and in due courſe took his degree of LL.B.

Soon after his being admitted to holy orders, he became diſtinguiſhed as a popular preacher, particularly at Oxford, where he delivered a ſet of diſcourſes, which in 1760 he publiſhed, under the title of "Evangelical Sermons." Not long after he became aſſiſtant to Mr. Madan, at the chapel of the Lock-hoſpital, and about the ſame time was appointed chaplain to the Counteſs of Huntingdon.

While he officiated at the Lock chapel, a circumſtance occurred which made a conſiderable noiſe at the time, and brought upon our divine, as well as his friends, much unmerited

unmerited odium. A gentleman who uſually attended that place of worſhip, informed Mr. Madan, that he had a living in his gift, which he wiſhed to beſtow upon ſome miniſter of evangelical ſentiments. Mr. Madan recommended Mr. Haweis, who was ſurprized at this generoſity in a ſtranger. Some time after his being inducted to the living of Aldwinkle, in Northamptonſhire, and which he now holds, the patron thought proper to make a demand upon him for the preſentation. The matter got into print, much was publiſhed on both ſides, and thoſe who were prejudiced againſt the body of Chriſtians to whom Mr. H. belonged, exclaimed vehemently againſt him for his conduct, as well as that of his colleague, Mr. Madan. Time, however has deſtroyed this prejudice, and we believe there is no perſon ſo uncandid, at preſent, as to admit a thought to his diſadvantage, in conſequence of this buſineſs.

About that period, he publiſhed a very uſeful and judicious commentary upon the ſcriptures, entitled, "The Evangelical Expoſitor," in 3 vols. folio.

Mr. H. continued to have the chief management of Lady Huntingdon's extenſive concerns until her death, when he found himſelf by her will one of the principal truſtees of her various chapels in town and country. In 1795 the miſſionary ſociety commenced, formed upon a plan and ſcale certainly more adequate to the object, more promiſing in its appearance, and, as far as it has yet gone, more proſperous in its operation, than any other that can be mentioned. This inſtitution equally admits churchmen and diſſenters. It is marked, indeed, only by what are called the evangelical ſentiments: it pays no regard to differences of opinion on the inferior queſtions of church government, or the manner of public worſhip; but it admits no miſſionaries except ſuch as are firmly grounded on the eſſential doctrines of chriſtianity,

anity, particularly the divinity of Chriſt, and the atonement by his death.

At the firſt public meeting of this ſociety, held at Spa-fields chapel, Mr. H. preached a very affecting and maſterly ſermon on the occaſion; and at a ſubſequent one, he read a memorial, in which he examined the ſubject with the greateſt preciſion and accuracy, and recommended ſtrongly that the firſt miſſion ſhould be to the Friendly Iſlands, in the South-Sea, which meaſure was adopted. This ſermon and memorial were printed in the collection of the ſociety's papers.

In the ſame year he obtained, from one of the Scotch univerſities, the degree of doctor of phyſic; and leſt his motives for ſo doing ſhould be miſunderſtood, it may be proper to ſay, that he is one of the principal perſons concerned in the Samaritan ſociety, the object of which is to viſit poor ſick people at their own habitations. Now, as he was originally brought up to the practice of medicine, there was a propriety in his taking a doctor's degree in that faculty, to render him competent to give his advice, and to attend conſultations, in the way of benevolence.

In 1797, the doctor publiſhed the life of that eminent and popular divine, Mr. Romaine. This performance does great credit to his talents as a biographer.

The miſſionary concerns ſeem to engroſs his principal attention: and, without doubt, that large and highly honourable ſociety could not have a more able, indefatigable, or faithful perſon at its head than Dr. H. The accounts received from the miſſionaries at the Sandwich-Iſlands are very flattering to thoſe who have formed ſtrong expectations reſpecting this new attempt to propagate chriſtianity in heathen lands. We underſtand that the ſociety is ſo opulent, in reſpect to finances, that it is about to enlarge its ſphere of operation; and that endea-

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vours will be made by it, to carry civilization and religion into other dark and uncultivated regions.

Dr. H. is ſtill an eloquent and powerful preacher. His ſtyle is perſpicuous and elegant. He never deſcends to that coarſe method of illuſtration made uſe of by ſome popular preachers, nor does he entertain his auditory with quaint witticiſms and ridiculous anecdotes. He has a clear method of reaſoning, and ſeldom launches into the wildneſs of declamation. As a writer, he poſſeſſes great merit, on account of an elegant ſtyle, which is at once pious and fervid.

We cannot cloſe this article, however, without expreſſing our aſtoniſhment and concern, that a man of Dr. H.'s judgment ſhould be ſo far impoſed upon, as to countenance raw youths, * who, without education, or any other qualification than mere boldneſs, and a certain forward conceit of their abilities, aſcend the pulpit, and deliver a ſtrange kind of jargon to their hearers. Is it becauſe the doctor wiſhes to be conſidered as the biſhop of his ſect, that he commiſſions, as it were, theſe unfledged theologians to go out and preach the goſpel of Chriſt? As a divine, and a reſpectable one too, of the church of England, we wiſh he would well conſider the evil which muſt accrue, not merely to the eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhment, but to the intereſts of the chriſtian church at large, by the preſumption of boys and illiterate mechanics, in thus encroaching upon the miniſterial office. It is this which encreaſes the number of infidels, and gives them cauſe to ridicule religion. The miſtakes of an ignorant zealot are more pernicious to the intereſts of chriſtianity, than the moſt daring attacks of avowed ſceptics.

* The extreme youth of ſome of the miſſionaries has given riſe to a ridiculous ſtory, about each of them having been preſented with three beautiful young women, as concubines, on their arrival at the place of their deſtination, &c. &c.

THE

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY DUNDAS,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT, &c. &c.

HENRY DUNDAS is deſcended from a younger branch of a * family, long eminent among the petty Barons of Lothian. During the greater part of the laſt century his immediate anceſtors were diſtinguiſhed as the moſt able advocates at the Scottiſh bar, and roſe to the higheſt offices and richeſt emoluments which the law can beſtow.

His father, even at an early period of his career, was pronounced by Preſident Dalrymple, to have outſhone all the competitors of his own day, in the liſts of juridical conteſt. His eldeſt brother, the late Lord Preſident Dundas, after ſhining as the firſt lawyer at the bar, was exalted to the bench, amidſt the ſhouts of general approbation; and it is ſtill remembered, with what auguſt dignity, what a force and clearneſs of argument, he adminiſtered juſtice for a long ſeries of years, at the head of the ſupreme civil court of Scotland.

Henry, being a younger ſon, by a ſecond marriage, was deſtined to ſeek his fortune in ſome profeſſional purſuit, and he very naturally choſe that in which his family had been ſo ſucceſsful. At an early period of life, he was called to the Scottiſh bar, and quickly attained ſome diſtinction among the junior advocates. In compliance with the cuſtom of the young Scottiſh lawyers, he attempted to diſtinguiſh himſelf, by adopting the popular eloquence of the general aſſembly of the church of Scotland, of which he became a member. With very flattering ſucceſs, he declaimed on the ſubject of patronage; diſputed about forms and precedents; and ſtrove ſometimes to allay, ſometimes to excite, thoſe ſtorms to which even that venerable body is now and then ſubject. A for-

* The Dundas's of Arniſton.

A fortunate marriage with the heireſs of Melville, ſoon made him a conſiderable landholder, and his ſucceſs at the bar augmented daily. If his pleadings were deficient in grace, elegance and correctneſs, and his ſpeeches unadorned by thoſe happy alluſions which polite literature can alone furniſh; they were, at leaſt, rich in that moſt valuable ingredient common ſenſe, enlivened with wit, pregnant with ſound juridical diſcrimination, and accompanied with apparent ſincerity and much honeſt frankneſs of manner.

In the intercourſe of private life, he was amiable, convivial, no foe to diſſipation, but of a ſpirit incapable of deſcending to any of the mean and ungenerous vices. In good company he would drink deep; and in affairs of gallantry, he is reported to have occaſionally indulged, even to exceſs. The domeſtic misfortune that enſued is known to all the world, and it might appear indelicate here to dwell upon the ſubject.

One of the firſt admirers of Mr. Dundas's talents in early life, was the late *Lord Kaimes*, who dedicated to him his excellent work, entitled "Principles of Equity;" and on that occaſion anticipated his future ſucceſs.

Neither the gaieties of diſſipation, nor the chagrin attendant on a family misfortune, could divert Mr. Dundas from vigorouſly purſuing that career of profeſſional ſucceſs which had opened before him. He rapidly attained the rank of one of the firſt lawyers at the Scottiſh bar; and his own merits, added to the influence of his family, ſoon recommended him to the notice of the crown: in fine, he became, in a ſhort time, Lord Advocate for Scotland; and neither his talents nor his juridical ſkill were deemed unworthy of the office.

It had been uſual with his predeceſſors, to procure a ſeat in the Britiſh Houſe of Commons; and Mr. Dundas alſo contrived to get a niche at the back of the treaſury-bench.

ſury-bench. His pronunciation and phraſeology were ſo replete with the peculiarities of the northern dialect, which has not yet ceaſed to prevail at the Scottiſh bar, as to excite a degree of ridicule againſt his ſpeeches in the ſenate, which would have proved unfavourable to the ſucceſs of almoſt any other perſon. But Mr. Dundas was not to be daunted by common obſtacles. He had enough of the lawyer about him to qualify him for legiſlative buſineſs, without his mind being narrowed by pedantry, or his eloquence too finically caſt after that model which is peculiarly fitted to the bar, but becomes tedious, and even ridiculous, amidſt national deliberations. He was quickly able to make himſelf maſter of all the *forms* of public buſineſs, a ſpecies of knowledge ſo dry, ſo difficult, ſo infinitely uſeful in parliament, ſo utterly uſeleſs every where elſe. In a ſhort time, he took an active part in every debate, and poſſeſſed great advantage, by utterly deſpiſing that primneſs, preciſeneſs, and rigour of morality, which teaches man to embrace *the right*, in oppoſition to *the expedient*. Nor did he ever affect to aſpire to that purity of patriotiſm, which refuſes to connect ſelf-intereſt with duty. He thus ſpeedily obtained an almoſt unrivalled pre-eminence; the artifices, the negociations, the maſterly overreachings of political intrigue, were ſome of the qualifications which ſoon appeared to compoſe the public character of Henry Dundas: and it muſt be owned, they would not be ill fitted, in a degenerate age, to conduct him to eminence.

The extent of dominion, the immenſe wealth, and the great political eſtabliſhments of the Eaſt-India Company in Aſia, had about this time begun to appear too great for a ſimple commercial corporation. The amazing fortunes acquired by their ſervants, had alſo provoked the moſt jealous enquiries into the arts by which

ſuch opulence could be ſo rapidlyaccumulated, and oriental influence was but too plainly diſcovered in the very boſom of the legiſlature. Mr. D. ſoon perceived, that a member of the Houſe of Commons might gain much by turning his attention to the affairs of India which came before that Houſe. In the caſe of Rumbold and ſome others, he ſhewed himſelf to be unequalled in tracing the detail of Aſiatic delinquency. In the public revolutions that ſpeedily enſued, he was eagerly courted by all parties; and was generally allowed to be deſerving of any of the primary places in the government. His enemies have ſaid, that, being then a needy political adventurer, he found it neceſſary to chooſe his ſide, from a regard to perſonal intereſt: and that the laxity of his principles rendered him ſufficiently ready to change his party, on the approach of ill fortune. Now the man of North; now the man of Fox; he found himſelf at laſt the faſt friend, the miniſterial coadjutor, and, as they ſay, the convivial tutor of Mr. PITT.

Mr. Dundas's alliance with the laſt of theſe, fixed him in the rich office of Treaſurer to the Navy; and during the infancy of Mr. P's adminiſtration, his counſels and parliamentary ſervices tended not a little to enſure its ſtability. In ſhort, all the meaſures of the Britiſh government ſince the year 1782, have in a great degree, been directed, or at leaſt influenced, by him.

Since he obtained an official employment in the adminiſtration, Mr. Dundas has enjoyed one peculiar advantage, which is rather of a ſingular ſort—that of never having attained the reputation of political integrity. Mr. Pitt, and other men who have uſed the ladder of patriotiſm in ſcaling the heights of miniſterial power, on being obliged to abandon thoſe popular principles which helped them to aſcend, have, by their apoſtacy, provoked the abhorrence of the people, by whom they were

once

once adored. But this great northern commoner, having never obtained much credit with the world in this reſpect, has rather riſen than fallen in the eſtimation of his country, during the courſe of his adminiſtration.

Of all the meaſures that have lately occurred, there is perhaps, no one which will be more unfavourably viewed by the candid and benevolent in future times, than the commencement of the preſent hoſtilities with France. But, whatever may be ſaid of the merits or demerits of thoſe miniſterial arts which engaged Britain in the conteſt, it muſt be confeſſed, that in many of the meaſures which the war-miniſter is ſuppoſed to have ſuggeſted, ſuch as that for the internal defence of the country, there appears much of that vigilance, energy, and vigour, which we have been forced to admire in the revolutionary rulers of the continent.

Mr. Dundas has alſo the good fortune to obtain the confidence of the Dukes of Buccleugh, Gordon, and Lord Hopetoun, and ſo many of the other leading peers and landholders of the North, that it would not be eaſy to find another miniſterial director of Scottiſh affairs, whoſe agency would be equally acceptable to the great people of that country.

His perſonal friends, who are numerous, and doubtleſs the beſt judges of his real character, are greatly attached to him. They conſider him as the only practical man in the cabinet, and think that either his retreat, or his death, would be attended with the moſt melancholy events on the part of the nation.

On the other hand, his enemies, who are implacable, as conſidering him the author of all our preſent calamities, and the accomplice of our former ones during the American war, entertain very different ſentiments. The very mildeſt of them aſſert, that the beſt wiſh that can be breathed, in favour of him or

his country, is, either that he may be enabled quickly to retire from the toils of his political career, or be ſpeedily called, by Divine Providence, to the enjoyment of another and better world.

The few who are of no party may conſider him as an honeſt and reſpectable private character, and as an active, zealous, and loyal ſtateſman.

A. Z.

ARTHUR WOLFE,

BARON KILWARDEN,

Lord Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench in Ireland.

OF the facility with which great talents may riſe to the higheſt rank and the firſt offices in the ſtate, when properly applied, Lord Kilwarden is a ſtriking inſtance.

Born in the County of Kildare, of parents of wealth and reſpectability, he had the advantage of an early college education,, in the univerſity of Dublin, and was called to the Iriſh bar in 1766. He was ſoon appointed a king's counſel, and by very laborious induſtry in his profeſſion, was making way to wealth and legal character, when, in conſequence of a high opinion of his talents, he was introduced into parliament by Lord Tyrone*: Yet it was ſo late as the year 1787 before he mounted the firſt ſtep of the ladder to the bench, by being appointed his Majeſty's Solicitor-general, which place he filled with great ability and integrity.

His next advancement followed cloſe on the heels of the former, being nominated Attorney-general in 1789, on the promotion of Mr. Fitzgibbon to the court of Chancery.

* Now Marquis of Waterford.

From

From a degree of candour and openneſs in Mr. W's manner, which intitled him to eſteem and praiſe; he alſo ſecured many friends, even in the oppoſition in the Houſe of Commons.

In June 1798 he was raiſed to the peerage, and to the bench, on the death of Lord Chief Juſtice Clonmel. As a ſpeaker, his voice is ſtrong and deep, it is mellow and capable of much variety. In private life, his Lordſhip has the higheſt character of being a ſteady friend, and an honeſt man.

MR.

MR. CURRAN.

OF all the opinions which have obtained a general currency, without being either founded in truth or ſanctioned by experience, there are none, perhaps, which have been ſo widely circulated as thoſe by which we are taught to believe, that the ſtudy of law is adverſe to the operations of genius, and that a lively imagination cannot be fettered to perſonal purſuits; that to be learned, a man muſt be dull, and that wit cannot be poſſeſſed but to the excluſion of induſtry.

Among the many examples which might be adduced from antiquity, or exhibited in modern times, to prove the futility of this dangerous conceit, Mr. Curran is not the leaſt ſtriking. No man has acquired higher reputation for thoſe powers which delight and captivate the fancy, touch the ſprings of paſſion, elicit tears from the ſoftneſs of ſenſibility, or extort from gravity itſelf the roar of laughter; yet has the aſſiduous induſtry and laborious exertions of this gentleman raiſed him from the humbleſt walk of life, in which his birth had placed him, to the firſt rank, if not the firſt place, at the Iriſh bar. He has not, indeed, attained high official ſituations, or riſen to thoſe honours which are oftener the reward of judicious politics, than of profeſſional ability; but he has acquired that which is a ſtronger proof both of induſtry and of talent—the unconteſted title of being the firſt advocate in his country.

Mr. Curran is about fifty years of age. He was born in the county of Cork, of parents who were undiſtinguiſhed by wealth or ſituation; who had neither a fortune by which they could have enabled the ſon to live independently, nor connections by which they could advance him to a profeſſion. They were, however, capable

ble of giving him the rudiments of a liberal education, and that ſeems to be the only advantage which he deprived from his family. Having qualified himſelf for the univerſity, he entered in the only character in which his circumſtances enabled him to appear, that of a *ſizer* in the college of Dublin; a ſituation of which the emoluments are trivial, while the marks of inferiority which diſtinguiſh it from that of the other ſtudents are of the moſt mortifying kind. The ſizers have, indeed, their tuition free of expence; but they are obliged to keep the rolls of their tutors, and attend to the weekly diſtribution of the fines and puniſhments of the pupils. They have alſo their commons *gratis*, but they dine only on the fragments of the fellows' table, and are compellable to diſcharge, in the dining-hall, ſeveral menial ſervices.

In this ſituation did Mr. C. paſs his firſt year at the univerſity: nor did he appear, in point of pecuniary circumſtances, to ſtand at the head even of this humble claſs. It is a fact, that the man who poſſeſſed powers that could move the heart, charm the imagination, and guide the judgment of a ſenate or of a court, was often deſtitute of a whole coat!

At the uſual time (two years after entrance) he obtained a ſcholarſhip; by which, and by the emoluments ariſing from ſome petty offices generally beſtowed on ſcholars, he emerged from the diſtreſs in which he had been hitherto involved. The remainder of his college career is not marked by any peculiar circumſtances; he obtained the uſual honours with which the policy of the univerſity rewards induſtry and talents, and is ſaid to have made ſome progreſs in reading the laborious courſe which is preſcribed for fellowſhip candidates; but whether diſguſted with the drudgery, or deterred by the magnitude of the undertaking, he ſoon deſiſted from the purſuit, and turned his attention to the bar.

Previouſly

Previouſly to his becoming a ſtudent in the Inns of Court of London, Mr. Curran married a lady of his own country. This match appears to have been founded in inclination, for ſhe did not bring him a fortune ſufficient to compenſate the inconveniences into which ſuch a permanent connection muſt have thrown him. Of the means by which he was enabled to ſupport himſelf and wife, during his ſtudies in England, and afterwards to defray the expence of his call to the bar, nothing certain is known; it is natural to ſuppoſe, however, that with talents like his, it would not be difficult to procure a livelihood by his literary exertions. But whatever might have been the mode by which his finances were ſupplied, it is certain that when he came to the bar, he was in extreme poverty. He reſided in Cavan-ſtreet, Dublin, a placeo ccupied entirely by the loweſt claſs of people, and which, in point of *gentility*, is on a level with the leaſt reputable part of Weſtminſter.

Mrs. Curran had now brought him a child; and being unable to indulge in the practice ſo common in Ireland, of ſending their children to be nurſed abroad, ſhe was obliged to undergo the labour of diſcharging at once the duties of nurſe, houſewife, and cook. About this time he became a frequenter of a convivial ſociety, originally formed by ſome young barriſters, and called the *Monks of the Screw*. Although the members of this inſtitution were poor, they were merry; the object of their meetings was to forget, in good fellowſhip, the cares of life, and relax the mind from the intenſeneſs of legal ſtudies. The devotion of the Monks, however, was promoted by humbler beverage than the juice of the grape, and their temple was nothing more than an upper room in a Cavan-ſtreet ale-houſe. Poor as ſuch a ſociety muſt have been, the circumſtances of Mr. Curran were ſo much more humble, that they were forwarded by his connection

even

even with it. As the club affected to be *ſelect*, it became neceſſary at length that they ſhould have an apartment to themſelves; they therefore engaged one at a certain rent, and Mr. Curran was complimented with the uſe of it, for the reſidence of himſelf and his family, except only during thoſe evenings on which the members aſſembled. He muſt have been poor, indeed, who lodged in ſuch a manſion!

Mr. Curran was not the only man of talents, who at that time belonged to this ſociety, and whom a ſubſequent diſplay of genius, and of learning, raiſed to eminence. The preſent Chief Baron of the Iriſh Exchequer, Lord Yelverton, the early intimate and friend of Curran, was one of its original members. Though more fortunate than him in his political, as well as forenſic purſuits, the connection firſt formed and cemented between them in the poverty of their early years (for Lord Yelverton, like Curran, had to ſtruggle with the difficulties of a narrow fortune,) has continued through every viciſſitude of ſucceeding life, not only unbroken but in full ſtrength.

That learning and talents are often enabled to raiſe themſelves into notice, without the fortunate co-operation of extrinſic circumſtances, is an obſervation which has been often exemplified in every profeſſion; but, perhaps, more frequently in that of the law, than any other. Our young barriſter, with qualities which are as likely to ſtrike at firſt ſight, as thoſe poſſeſſed by any of his contemporaries, remained, however, for ſome time at the bar entirely unnoticed. The attention of the public was turned toward him, for the firſt time, in rather a ſingular way.

He had been engaged as agent by one of the candidates at a conteſted election, and in the courſe of the poll, it became neceſſary for him to make objections to a vote proffered

proffered by the adverſe party, which he did in that ſtrong and ſarcaſtic manner for which he is ſo remarkable. His antagoniſt, a man of rude and overbearing manners, *felt* the pungency of his wit, and not immediately recogniſing the Barriſter under a ſhabby coat, and a mean appearance (for nature has not been very favourable in external decorations,) he applied to him ſome very groſs epithets. With more ſpirit, perhaps, than decorum, Mr. Curran leaped from his ſeat, ſeized him by the collar, and was prevented only by the interpoſition of the by-ſtanders from chaſtiſing him on the ſpot. He, however, was not precluded from aſſerting his independence in that way, which could alone be tolerated in the preſence of a magiſtrate, he therefore, in a few pithy ſentences, diſcloſed his *mind* and his *character*; his antagoniſt had generoſity enough to acknowledge his error, and apologized to Mr. Curran for the conſequences of his miſtake; nay, inſtead of reſenting the violence with which he had repelled the inſult, he granted him his friendſhip, and by his recommendation and patronage very eſſentially promoted his future intereſts.

From that period he began to riſe rapidly. Within leſs than ſix months he quitted his gratuitous lodgings in Cavan-ſtreet, and removed nearer to the more reputable part of the town. Mrs. Curran no longer diſhonoured her lord's circumſtances, by appearing in the diſcharge of thoſe domeſtic offices which are uſually performed by deputy; nay, in leſs than a year, the riſing proſperity of the family was viſible in the luxury of a one-horſe chair! Merit was now finding its proper level, and, in this inſtance at leaſt, we no longer behold great learning and uncommon genius ſtruggling with adverſity, or ſullied in the eſtimation of vulgar minds, by an undeſerved poverty:

Within

Within two or three years more, we find Mr. Curran ſeated in the Houſe of Commons, and ſeconding, with much ſportive humour, every effort of the popular party for the emancipation of the country, and the eſtabliſhment of its commercial freedom and political independence.

During the arduous and intereſting period in which Mr. Fitzgibbon filled the office of Attorney-general, he was one of the leading men in oppoſition, and of courſe came into frequent colliſion with that dogmatical and haughty lawyer. The high tone of defiance on legal or conſtitutional queſtions with which the Attorney-general endeavoured to overbear his opponents, was more frequently ridiculed by the wit, than combated by the arguments of Mr. Curran; if, in this mode of combat, he did not always repel the blow, he at leaſt evaded its force, and though he could not on every occaſion boaſt of victory, he at leaſt eſcaped defeat. On one of theſe conteſts, the iſſue was more ſerious; it produced a duel, in which Mr. C. was the challenger, but which happily was attended with no injury to either party.

While Mr. Curran was thus ſucceſsfully attentive to buſineſs, he did not ſuffer opportunities of pleaſure to paſs by him unenjoyed. He was naturally, indeed, a man of uncommon gaiety; poſſeſſing an exquiſite ear for muſic, and being himſelf no ordinary performer on the *forte piano*, it was not ſtrange that the Circe-like allurements of Mrs. Billington ſhould have enchanted him for a time.

Although Mr. Curran has been uſually conſidered a man of gallantry, he enjoys an uninterrupted claim to the character of a good father. He has one ſon, who is now (1798) about to be called to the bar, and two daughters; to the education of theſe he has paid the moſt affectionate attention.

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It has been already obſerved, that, in his parliamentary character, he has always been attached to the popular cauſe. Indeed, from his outſet in life, he has been a *ſteady* friend to the legiſlative independence, to free commerce, and a reform in the repreſentation of Ireland. He has uniformly declared againſt the war with France, and he has combated, with unremitted vigour, during five years, the coercive ſyſtem which has been purſued in Ireland. Finding the inefficacy of that oppoſition, he has withdrawn, along with many of thoſe with whom he had co-operated, from the Houſe of Commons, and is now known to the public only as an advocate. In this capacity he has lately defended many of his unfortunate countrymen; and is ſaid to be about to retire for a time, and perhaps for ever from his native country.

As a lawyer Mr. Curran has not particularly diſtinguiſhed himſelf, by the extent of his knowledge or the depth of his reſearches: he ſtands, in this reſpect only, on an equality with his competitors; it is as an advocate that he outſtrips them. Indeed, in this character, he has not, perhaps, his equal in the empire. With Mr. Erſkine he has been frequently compared; but in the opinion of ſome who have long admired, and attentively conſidered the reſpective excellencies of each, the latter holds only a ſecond place.

Mr. Erſkine is an acute, grave, laborious, and frequently an eloquent pleader; he turns the bright ſide of his client's caſe to full view, urges its ſtrong parts with the force of a maſculine underſtanding, and covers its weakneſs with very ingenious ſophiſtry; but the jury ſtill remember that Mr. Erſkine is an advocate, and are on their guard againſt his arts.

Mr. Curran while he diſplays as much acuteneſs as Mr. E. gets nearer to the heart and paſſions of his auditors; and by the ardour and animation of an eloquence neither

neither fictitious nor forced, excludes every feeling and every thought but thoſe which he wiſhes to excite. In the examination of witneſſes, too, Mr. Curran is eminently powerful. In his manner he reſembles Mr. Garrow, but perhaps excells even that gentleman in probing a rotten cauſe to the bottom, in eliciting truth from prevarication, and touching the ſecret ſtrings that actuate the human heart.

Mr. Curran's parliamentary ſpeeches ſeldom poſſeſs the excellence which has marked his profeſſional defences. They diſplay much leſs of the *mens divinior*; they are irregular, and deſultory, and ſeem to be rather the play of his mind than its ſerious exertion. They, however, abound with admirable ſtrokes of invective, and irony, and though they aſſiſt but little in guiding deciſion, on the point diſcuſſed, yet produce a good effect, by holding up political profligacy and corruption to contempt and deteſtation.

Of claſſical learning Mr. Curran ſeems to have early laid in a good ſtore; his alluſions to the Roman poets are frequent, and his quotations from them are prompt, and happy. It is a curious circumſtance, that to ſtudy the Latin claſſics, and commit to memory remarkable paſſages formed a part of Mr. Curran's preparation for the bar; and that he continues, from his experience of its utility, to recommend his practice to the ſtudent of the municipal law.

On the ſcore of perſon, Mr. Curran owes but little to nature. His ſtature is low, his figure meagre and ill-formed, and his whole appearance far from being prepoſſeſſing. He has, however, an eye which emits the fire of genius, and is admirably calculated to tranſmit either the ſcintillations of fancy, or that deep pathos of the heart, which he not only feels himſelf, but can ſo powerfuly excite in others. Of dreſs he has always been remarkably, perhaps culpably, negligent; for he has often played *Cicero* in the ſenate, in the garb of *Scrub!*

LORD

LORD MONBODDO.

JAMES BURNET is deſcended from an ancient family in Aberdeenſhire, and being heir to a ſmall fortune, ſtudied the Scotch law, and was called to the bar, or, in other words, became *an advocate* in that country.

In this ſituation he acquired conſiderable celebrity, and was employed as counſel in two cauſes, which engaged the attention of the public more than any brought before a Scottiſh tribunal in the courſe of a century. One of theſe was the great queſtion of literary property; the other the Douglas cauſe. In the courſe of the latter he was employed to go to Paris, in order to arrange the neceſſary papers for the inveſtigation of ſo intricate an affair.

While in that capital he procured an account of a ſavage girl, who had been diſcovered wild in the woods of Champagne, and actually went to ſee her; for this was a ſubject intimately connected with his favourite purſuit.

In 1767, Mr. Burnet was appointed one of the Lords of Seſſion in Scotland, when, according to the cuſtom of his country, he aſſumed the title of *Lord Monboddo*, from the name of his family eſtate. He was offered the poſt of one of the Commiſſioners of the Court of Juſticiary, but declined its acceptance, on account of the unpleaſant part of that office, the trying and ſentencing condemned criminals!

Lord Monboddo has, however, been better known to the world as a literary man, than either as a pleader or a judge. His firſt publication was a "Diſſertation on the Origin and Progreſs of Language," in ſix volumes, 8vo. The inveſtigation of the origin of language, had been in vain attempted by many of the learned among the ancients, who certainly poſſeſſed materials of which we

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are deprived. Yet the moderns have engaged in this purſuit with much ardour; and in our time Biſhop Warburton and Lord Monboddo, both men of ſingular acquirements have thought deeply, and written profoundly on the ſubject. After the moſt extenſive reſarch, they, however, have not been able to inform us how or when alphabetical writing was firſt invented; but they have deſerved the thanks of the curious, by *ſhewing how* it might have been diſcovered and introduced. The excellence of this art is ſo conſpicuons, that many learned men have conceived it to be an immediate communication from the Deity; and Mr. Gilbert Wakefield has written an ingenious eſſay on this ſide of the queſtion, which has been thought worthy of a place in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*; but both the judge and the biſhop have ſhewn, not only the poſſibility, but the probability, that we owe this grand effort of human ſkill to the genius of Egypt; and this opinion has been greatly ſtrengthened by the ingenious labours of Governor Pownall.

His lordſhip is alſo author of another work, in five volumes quarto, called "Ancient Metaphyſics;" a performance remarkable for the ſurprizing mixture of penetration and genius, with what, in the eyes of ſome, appears to be the moſt abſurd whim and conceit, the attempt to prove that the *ourang outang* is a claſs of the human ſpecies; and that the want of ſpeech is merely accidental: this has afforded much ſport, both to the wits and critics of the age. Lord Monboddo has alſo endeavoured to eſtabliſh the exiſtence of mermaids! yet, notwithſtanding theſe ſingularities, the work is a truly ingenious performance, and will long enſure a place on the ſhelves of the learned.

His lordſhip is, at one and the ſame time, an excellent Greek ſcholar, and a true chriſtian philoſopher. He is ingenious

ingenious and liberal his opinions, and his conduct as a judge, never ſuffers himſelf to be ſwayed by either party or family connexions. At his houſe in Edinburgh, he is extremely hoſpitable; and receives, with politeneſs, all literary ſtrangers who viſit that city. He imitates the ancients in bathing and exerciſe, and has attained to a very great agewith out any of thoſe infirmities, either of mind or body, which are the uſual attendants on extreme age. He was formerly accuſtomed to retire yearly to London, and generally made the journey on horſeback; it need ſcarcely be added, that in all his peregrinations, he was received with unbounded welcome by the literary men of the age.

THE HONOURABLE DAINES BARRINGTON

IS brother to the late Lord Barrington, the preſent Biſhop of Durham, and alſo to Admiral Barrington.

This gentleman was bred to the law, a profeſſion in which he never made any conſpicuous figure, but was ſucceſſively promoted to be one of the king's counſel, and a Welch judge; the latter of which ſtations he reſigned ſome years ago, on acconnt of his growing infirmities. He has alſo poſſeſſed ſeveral ſmall places under government, ſuch as deputy-keeper of the wardrobe, ſecretary to Greenwich-hoſpital, marſhal of the admiralty, and commiſſioner of ſtores at Gibraltar, the laſt of which only he now retains.

But if Mr. Barrington is not celebrated as a lawyer, he may juſtly claim the honour of being a profound and judicious antiquary, an agreeable companion, and a truly worthy man. In 1775, he publiſhed an Eſſay on the Probability of reaching the North Pole, 4to.; and in 1781, a volume of Miſcellanies, alſo in 4to. principally on Antiquarian ſubjects.

In 1766 he preſented the world with a volume of *Obſervations upon the Statutes, from Magna Charta to the* 21 *James I.* in which he ſtrongly enforces a reviſal, and adds a propoſal for new modelling the whole. This is a work of great merit, and a ſecond edition was called for and publiſhed in 1776.

To enumerate Mr. Barrington's literary labours, would be an Herculean taſk: among them we find an "Account of ſome Fiſh in Wales;" "Inveſtigation of the Difference between the paſt and preſent Temperature of the Air in Italy;" "Obſervations on Welch Caſtles;" A Controverſy with Dr. Ducarel concerning "Cheſnut Trees;"

Trees;" "Method of keeping Carp alive out of water;" "Two Letters on Cæsar's Invasion;" "Essay on the periodical Appearance of Birds;" "On the distinguished Qualities of the Rabbit and Hare;" "Experiments on the singing of Birds;" "Correction of some Mistakes in Ornithology;" "Account of two Welch Musical Instruments;" "On the Remains of the ancient Cornish Language;" "Inquiry into the Antiquity of Clocks;" "Conjectures relative to certain Remains of vitrified Walls in Scotland;" "On Archery;" "On Musical Instruments;" "On Card playing."

Most of these are highly entertaining, and some of them evince the most profound research.

This very ingenious man was the friend of Dr. Johnson, and a member of the club in Essex-street, instituted by that great moralist. He still appertains to a society of *choice Spirits*, who meet at the Grecian, whither he is supported by his man, and returns in a chair to chambers. The templars, the city beaus, and, indeed, the world in general, are much obliged to him for the improvements made in the garden facing the Thames, which exhibits more taste and elegance, than could be expected from an antiquary.

DR. O'LEARY.

ARTHUR O'LEARY is a native of Cork, in Ireland, and a member of the moſt numerous and leaſt predominant ſect in that country.

After receiving ſome inſtruction in his native land, he was ſent to the continent, in 1747, to prepare him for the ſituation for which he was deſigned—that of a prieſt of the Roman catholic church. He accordingly reſided for ſome time at the college of St. Omer's, and became a member of the order of St. Francis.

On the completion of his ſtudies, he was appointed chaplain to a regiment in the ſervice of the prince in whoſe dominions he was educated; but not entering warmly into the meaſure of engaging the ſubjects of theſe kingdoms to enliſt in foreign battalions, he incurred the diſpleaſure of thoſe in power, and ſoon after returned to the country which had given him birth.

By the aſſiſtance of ſome friends he built a ſmall but decent chapel in his native city; and a circumſtance ſoon occurred which procured him ſome little provinci alcelebrity. A work happened, about this time, to be publiſhed in Cork, entitled, "Thoughts on Nature and Religion." It was written by a Scotch phyſician; and as no one anſwered it, Father O'Leary applied to Dr. Mann, the biſhop of the dioceſe in which he reſided, for permiſſion to enter the liſts; now the churches of England and Rome thinking alike on the matter in diſpute, he immediately granted leave. Accordingly, ſoon after this, appeared his "Defence of the Divinity of Chriſt, and the Immortality of the Soul."

When the parliament of Ireland framed a teſt oath for the Roman catholics, many perſons of tender conſciences ſcrupled to take it. On this, Mr. O'Leary publiſhed his

"Loyalty

"Loyalty aſſerted, or the Teſt-Oath vindicated;" in which he explained the ſeeming difficulties that occurred, ſo much to the ſatisfaction of the nonjuring catholics in his neighbourhood, that they unanimouſly ſubſcribed.

At that critical period, during the unfortunate war with America, when the combined fleets of France and Spain rode triumphant on the Britiſh coaſt, and threatened an invaſion of Ireland, he addreſſed his Catholic countrymen in the moſt energetic language, and in ſuch an effectual manner, as to merit the thanks of every good citizen.

His next publications were in reply to ſome ſevere charges made againſt the Roman Catholics, by the late Mr. Weſley; and in theſe he refuted that odious imputation by which they are accuſed of "keeping no faith with heretics."

Another valuable tract publiſhed by Mr. O'Leary is called "An Eſſay on Toleration, and a Plea for Freedom of Conſcience." In this eſſay the reaſoning is ſolid and perſuaſive, and the whole tenor of it tends to inculcate the principles of liberality and humanity.

Theſe ſix pieces have been publiſhed in a volume, under the title of "Miſcellaneous Tracts;" and it has reached a third, if not a fourth edition. It is dedicated to the "Monks of St. Patrick," a ſociety of reſpectable men in Ireland, who aſſociated for the ſupport of the conſtitution of their country.

In addition to the literary labours already alluded to, an excellent pamphlet publiſhed in 1786, and entitled "A Review of ſome intereſting Periods in the Iriſh Hiſtory," is alſo attributed to him; and Mr. Pratt has drawn his character in a very maſterly manner, in his late novel called "Family Secrets," one volume of which is inſcribed to the Doctor.

Father

Father O'Leary, as he is familiarly called, and who is ſaid to have received a penſion from government for his public ſervices, has lately printed a ſermon on the preſent ſituation of affairs, which was originally preached at St. Patrick's chapel.

BARRY,

BARRY, LORD YELVERTON,

CHIEF BARON OF THE EXCHEQUER IN IRELAND.

LIKE many other of thoſe men whoſe talents and virtues have raiſed them in Ireland to the higheſt places in the law, Chief Baron Yelverton owes nothing to illuſtrious birth, to family connections, or to wealth accumulated by his anceſtors. If report be true (and it is highly honourable to him), his lordſhip's immediate progenitor was nothing more than a petty dealer in wool, in the neighbourhood of Clonmel, far from affluent in point of circumſtances, and unable to do more for Barry, his ſon, than to give him the rudiments of a claſſical education, which enabled him to enter the univerſity of Dublin, as a ſizer, a deſcription of ſtudents, accuſtomed to receive both tuition and commons free of expence. At the uſual time he obtained a ſcholarſhip, a reward given in that univerſity to diſtinguiſhed merit, and to which beſides honourable rank, certain emoluments are annexed, in addition to board, not exceeding, however, on the whole, 20*l.* per annum.

Mr. Yelverton, before the expiration of his ſcholarſhip, determined on the law as his profeſſion; but to acquire knowledge in it, and afterwards to be called to the bar, requires "a portion of this world's wealth," which unluckily his finances were unable to afford.

His marriage, ſhortly after, with a young lady poſſeſſed of three or four hundred pounds, removed this embarraſſment, and enabled him, with ſome literary exertions of his own, to keep his terms in London, and obtain his call to the Iriſh bar in 1764. When he became a barriſter, he occupied very obſcure lodgings in Eſſex-ſtreet, a part of the town which ſtill continues to be unfaſhionable. Here he remained for ſome time, and

proved,

proved, in his own caſe, that even firſt-rate legal talents may lie long in obſcurity. The induſtry and ability of Mr. Yelverton, however, did at laſt work their way, but many years elapſed between his aſſumption of a wig and gown, and his becoming a character known to the public in any other way than as a profeſſional man, labouring ſucceſsfully for his client and his fee.

We do not, indeed, hear of him in a public capacity, until the occurrence of that important criſis, when the calamities of the country urged its friends to ſtruggle with the then weakened power of Great Britain, and to obtain for Ireland an enlargement of commercial privileges, and ſhortly afterwards the eſtabliſhment of legiſlative independence. Mr. Yelverton, who had now got into parliament, co-operated with the other patriots of the day in the purſuit of theſe objects, and was conſpicuous for the energy and boldneſs of his exertions. When they were once attained, he not only ceaſed to lend his talents to the popular party, but, on the contrary, he oppoſed them, ranged himſelf on the ſide of the court, and reſiſted every attempt to attain reform in the repreſentation by means of the volunteer aſſociations.

In 1782, he had been raiſed to the important and confidential place of Atorney-general; and he acquitted himſelf in that ſituation with ſuch unremitting zeal, in counteracting the attempts of the volunteers, and labouring for their diſperſion, as effectually recommended him to the favour of government. The beneficial effects reſulting from this conduct were ſoon apparent, for in 1784 he was raiſed to the bench, as Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

His elevation, though generally conſidered as a reward for his political ſervices, was yet not unwelcome to the public, which could recogniſe, even in the unpopular ſenator, the learning, the talents, and the profeſ-

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ſional integrity of a great lawyer. Removed from the Houſe of Commons to the bench, and yet not raiſed to the peerage, his opportunities of rendering political ſervices to the adminiſtration were now greatly leſſened. The conſequence was, that, either relaxing in his zeal for want of occaſion to exert it, or finding its fervour cooled by not being raiſed to a title, like his competitor Scott, who was created Baron Earlsfort in 1784, his politics appeared to be neutraliſed, until, in 1789, he declared himſelf a decided friend to the party which aſſerted the right of Ireland to chooſe her own regent, and accordingly proffered that office to the Prince of Wales. Notwithſtanding this, he was created Lord Yelverton, Baron of Avonmore, in the county of Cork, June 16, 1795.

No man poſſeſſes a higher character in private life than Lord Yelverton. Simple and unaſſuming in his manners, with a goodneſs of heart which fraud and cunning but too often make the dupe of their artifices, he is beloved by all, and impoſed on, even in the moſt trivial occurrences of life, by many. Though enjoying a ſtrength and comprehenſion of intellect fitted to direct and to enlighten ſenates, he may be governed, miſled, or baffled, by the moſt ſhallow of his domeſtics. Of the convivial glaſs no man is more fond, and yet ſlander has not charged him with intemperance. His lordſhip loves, and, without the leaſt inconvenience to his intellects, can bear a conſiderable quantity of the enlivening grape.

As a public ſpeaker, his leading characteriſtic is STRENGTH. His voice, full, deep, and ſonorous, added to a pronunciation ſlow and ſolemn, gives great weight to what is dictated by a mind well ſtored with legal and general knowlege; by an underſtanding capable of arranging, in the moſt judicious manner, the excellent materials which it poſſeſſes; and by a fancy not

deſtitute

deſtitute of the powers of embelliſhment. His manner is animated, impreſſive, and almoſt overbearing. Of quick conception and feelings, often irritable, and apt to be rouſed to indignation by every appearance of oppreſſion or of fraud, his lordſhip appears to diſplay all the ſenſations of a good man. But on the bench, he ſeems, perhaps, to poſſeſs too little of that ſtoical apathy, which is ſo eſſential to the aſcertainment of guilt or innocence; a cauſe is no ſooner opened, than he catches, or ſuppoſes he catches, ſufficient to guide his deciſion; and every attempt which the pleader afterwards makes to remove this firſt impreſſion, his lordſhip ſtrenuouſly reſiſts as an unworthy endeavour to impoſe on his underſtanding, and to throw the veil of eloquence around truth and juſtice. This fault excepted, and to which Lord Mansfield himſelf was but too prone, Lord Yelverton is allowed to be an excellent judge, of inflexible integrity, and extenſive legal learning.

RIGHT

RIGHT HONOURABLE ISAAC CORRY

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER IN IRELAND.

THIS gentleman is the ſon of a reputable, but not very wealthy, merchant of the town of Newry, in the county of Down. A conſiderable ſhew of talents, and great profeſſions of independent and ſteady patriotiſm, rendered him in early life a favourite with the public; while eaſy, poliſhed manners, added to an engaging perſon, procured him the friendſhip of his townſmen, who ſoon became his conſtituents.

Mr. Corry was bred to the law, and was actually called to the bar in the year 1779, a very remarkable period in the hiſtory of Ireland. Soon diſguſted, either with the labours of the profeſſion, or the ill ſucceſs with which theſe labours were attended, he threw away his bag, which had never been over-charged with briefs, and became an adventurer in the field of politics.

No ſooner was he ſeated in the Houſe of Commons, than he became one of the moſt warm and animated members of the then oppoſition. His induſtry, which applied itſelf to every ſubject that emerged in the courſe of parliamentary buſineſs, but particularly to the calculations of revenue and finance; his fluency in debate, the correctneſs and animation of his language, accompanied with a very ſucceſsful diſplay of apparent modeſty, rendered him not only a ſhewy, but an uſeful partiſan.

For ſome years Mr. Corry devoted himſelf to the popular cauſe; he ſcrutinized every miniſterial meaſure, railed againſt Britiſh influence, contended for place and penſion-bills, and laboured, with much energy and effect, to obtain a ſimilar conſtruction of the navigation-act in both countries. But, alas! the hour was approaching, when he was no longer to grace the oppoſition bench, teaſe a lord lieutenant's ſecretary with patriotic motions, or embarraſs the financier with the Cocker-like alluſions of arithmetical eloquence! The

The Marquis of Buckingham assumed the viceroyship of Ireland in 1787, and having dismissed a very considerable number of officers in the different departments for neglect and peculation, it became necessary to replace them with gentlemen possessing the public confidence. With his lordship, skill in accounts was a first-rate qualification; who, therefore, could be a better object of his favour than Mr. Corry? Mr. Corry was accordingly nominated to a post in the ordnance, of one thousand pounds per annum. The viceroy, affecting popularity, thus appointed to office a popular representative; and the popular representative, wishing to serve himself and his country, accepted the appointment.

From the days of the Marquis of Buckingham, Mr. Corry has exhibited himself, during a series of viceroys, as one of the best servants of administration, and has enjoyed a succession of very lucrative places in the ordnance, revenue, and treasury.

But although Mr. Corry, has in some degree, relinquished the love and applause of his countrymen for the smiles of a court, and the emoluments of office, it is yet but just to say, that he was not, during several years, the forward advocate of the ancient system, nor has he ever, with the shameless zeal of most proselytes, become either the slanderer or the persecutor of the party which he deserted. He has borne himself with a meekness and temperance which disarm resentment, and preserve to him the regard and esteem of those with whom he formerly acted. In many instances he has voted against the minister on questions which, in his patriotic days, he had supported; and in others, he has modestly withdrawn on a division, in order to preserve at once his place and his consistency. In the late contest between the court and the country party, he has, however, been an advocate for

for the coercive ſyſtem, and acceded to all the ſevere laws which were enacted previouſly to the rebellion.

Mr. Corry's perſon is manly, and his countenance expreſſive of ſpirit and good ſenſe; thoſe ſcenes of gaiety and diſſipation in which part of his juvenile days were ſpent, and which contributed to give his manners that poliſh which we admire, have alſo impreſſed on his face ſome of the indications of the *bon-vivant*. He is ſtill unmarried, having hitherto ſcorned the trammels of wedlock, and enjoyed the delights of love in the leſs moral way of a man of faſhion.

There is not a more influencing ſpeaker in the Iriſh Houſe of Commons. His voice is ſtrong and mellow; his diction correct; and his ſtyle fluent, copious, moderately ornamented, and always above mediocrity. On moſt topics he is capable of ſpeaking in a manner which always pleaſes, and ſometimes inſtructs; but it is principally upon ſubjects connected with finance, revenue or commerce, that he appears to the greateſt advantage. To theſe he ſeems chiefly to have directed his attention, and in theſe he has acquired very extenſive and uſeful knowledge. Indeed, wherever clearneſs and ſtrength can recommend a ſpeaker to his auditory, Mr. Corry is calculated to command applauſe, for his underſtanding is of the firſt claſs. From imagination he derives little aid; his fancy is either ſterile, or he repreſſes its exuberance, for in his ſpeeches are to be found few of thoſe flowers which decorate the barren tract of inveſtigation, or beautify the field of dry diſquiſition. His ornaments conſiſt in extreme neatneſs of diction, ſmoothneſs and fluency of periods, and well-judged arrangement of matter. Theſe, added to the correct animation of his manner, the roundfulneſs of his voice, and the effect of a good perſon, procure for his opinions a great degree of attention and reſpect.

RIGHT

RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN BERESFORD.

Mr. Beresford is a younger branch of that family, whoſe head is the Marquis of Waterford. Educated for the bar, he was called to it ſo early as 1761, and for ſome years practiſed with tolerable ſucceſs. He was, however, at laſt induced to quit that laborious profeſſion, where reward can only be obtained by the moſt rigid induſtry, for the golden proſpects which opened to him in the field of political adventure. Thoſe proſpects he has abundantly realized, having raiſed himſelf to high office, and ſtill higher influence in the ſtate, ſpread his branches over the land, and ſtruck his roots too deep in the ſoil to be ſhaken even by thoſe dreadful ſtorms which have lately agitated Ireland. Such is his influence, that he is reported to have procured for himſelf, and his various family connections, places, ſalaries, &c. to the amount of above 40,000l. per annum!

For many years back, Mr. Beresford has been at the head of the Iriſh revenue, in which ſituation he is ſaid to have acquired and diſplayed a very profound and extenſive knowledge, not only of the affairs of that department, but of the general commerce of the country. That he is a man of buſineſs, and indefatigable induſtry, cannot be denied; and that he poſſeſſes talents of ſome kind, is fully proved by the ſucceſs which has crowned his endeavours.

The obtaining from parliament a ſum of money, not leſs than half-a-million, for building, under the name of a cuſtom-houſe, a palace, part of which he himſelf was to inhabit, eſtabliſhes beyond controverſy, the extent of his power, and the ſucceſs of his addreſs; while the judicious diſpoſitions which he has made, as one of the commiſſioners for widening the ſtreets of the capital, gives him

him an indiſputable title to the praiſe of great foreſight and ſkill.

Of a long ſucceſſion of viceroys, with a ſingle exception only, Mr. Beresford is ſuppoſed to have had the ear; they have been governed in a great meaſure by his councils, and they have not proved ungrateful to their adviſer. The influence of a man thus circumſtanced, muſt neceſſarily have become extenſive; it has accordingly inſinuated itſelf into every department of the ſtate, and given to that family a degree of ſtrength which enables it almoſt to dictate to any adminiſtration. One viceroy alone (Lord Fitzwilliam) attempted, of late, to govern without the Beresfords, and the conſequence was, that he was driven from the helm. Had Lord Cornwallis preſided as a civil magiſtrate, and thwarted their plans, he too, probably, would have felt their power.

Poſſeſſing ſuch weight in the councils of the country, it is not to be ſuppoſed that Mr. B. ever attempts to quarrel with a meaſure recommended by adminiſtration. In fact, the Britiſh cabinet is ſaid to recommend no project, which has not, in the firſt inſtance, been approved by him and a few other men of buſineſs who know the country. The celebrated commercial propoſitions of Mr. Orde, in 1785, however, form an exception. The alterations which were made in thoſe propoſitions in England, had not Mr. B's previous concurrence; and though he at length reluctantly ſupported them, they miſcarried, as he had very ſagaciouſly preſaged.

Although Mr. Beresford, and his family, have ſo much influence in the Iriſh adminiſtration, he does not, perſonally, exert himſelf in the Houſe in defending or ſupporting the meaſures which he adviſes. He never ſpeaks but on ſubjects relating to the revenue, or the buſineſs of the commiſſioners during the debates on wide ſtreets. When repelling the inſinuations of improper or corrupt conduct,

conduct, with which he has been ſometimes harraſſed, he ſhews great anxiety to convince, but his declamation is unimpaſſioned. His voice is very clear, and ſufficiently ſtrong, but it wants variety, and has no harmony in its tones. His diction is indeed ſimple, but not correct, and never riſes above the level of colloquial converſation.

Even his political enemies allow Mr. Beresford to poſſeſs a very amiable private character; for he muſt be confeſſed to be a good friend, father, and huſband. In his perſon, he is tall, and though now an old man, he is yet florid, erect and handſome.

RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN FOSTER,

SPEAKER OF THE IRISH HOUSE OF COMMONS.

IF the poſſeſſion of a ſtrong and correct underſtanding, much general knowledge, and a profound acquaintance with the commercial, manufacturing, and agricultural intereſts of his native country, conſtitute a juſt ground to reſpect, it is due to Mr. Foſter; for undoubtedly one more able, in point of intellect, or better informed in the very important inſtances we have mentioned, is not to be found among the public men of Ireland.

John Foſter is the ſon of the late Anthony, Lord Chief Baron Foſter. He received his education at the univerſity of Dublin, where he was contemporary with the preſent Chancellor, and Mr. Grattan. In Michaelmas term, 1766, he was called to the Iriſh bar, while his father, the Chief Baron, was yet on the bench. To Mr. Foſter, law was but a nominal profeſſion; he applied himſelf to other ſtudies, and no doubt had higher game in view, than the humble ſituation of a labouring barriſter, or even the more dignified one of a *puiſné judge*. He accordingly turned his mind towards ſtatiſtical enquiries; and in the moſt dry and difficult occupations, perhaps, in which the human mind can be employed, he made a proficiency to which he now owes his elevation to the moſt honourable office which a commoner can fill.

Shortly after his call to the bar, Mr. Foſter was returned to ſerve in parliament for the county of Louth, and ſoon became as conſpicuous for talents, as for knowledge. At that time, indeed, it was leſs difficult to become eminent in an Iriſh Houſe of Commons than at preſent, becauſe the field for exertion being narrow, much talent, comparatively

ſpeaking, was not called forth; but in any aſſembly of legiſlators, this man was qualified to ſhine; and in that of Ireland, the manly wiſdom of his ſyſtem of corn laws, a ſyſtem which he began to form ſhortly after his coming into parliament, will give immortality to his name. From being unable to ſupply two-thirds of her people with bread, in 1770, in conſequence of the operation of Mr. Foſter's plan, his country has not only become equal to feed her inhabitants without lying at the mercy of other nations, but actually to export grain to the amount of 200,000*l.* annually.

After the agriculture of the country, the next great object of Mr. Foſter was the Linen manufacture, and this has derived, from his zeal and intelligence, nearly equal benefit with agriculture itſelf. His attention to it has been unremitted; and the regulations, from time to time, introduced by his advice, have not only greatly encreaſed the quantity manufactured and exported, but ſecured to Iriſh linens, in foreign countries, a character which muſt, for many years, operate powerfully in their favour.

During the very period in which Mr. Foſter was rendering to Ireland benefits ſo important, his name was not merely odious, but even execrated among the populace, at leaſt the populace of the metropolis. This is not much to the credit of popular feeling; but there are ſome circumſtances which may account for the fact, notwithſtanding that they certainly cannot juſtify it.

Although Mr. Foſter was thus laudably employed in advancing the agriculture and manufactures of the country, he was at the ſame time known to be adverſe to every attempt toward eſtabliſhing the independence of the legiſlature, and abrogating the unjuſt reſtrictions, by which Great Britain had fettered the commerce of Ireland. At that time, too, the manufacturers of the capital were either ſtarving for want

want of employment, or kept alive by eleemoſynary contributions. Protecting duties for theſe famiſhed artiſans were called for, and Mr. Foſter oppoſed them with all his powers. It was natural that the hungry ſhould hate the man who thus declared his hoſtility to meaſures which it was hoped would give them bread. The remote operation of laws; however wiſe, the bulk of the nation could not foreſee; and even if they could foreſee, it would not relieve the preſſure of preſent want, or enable the famiſhing workmen to ſatisfy the calls of nature.

Whatever Mr. Foſter's merits, therefore, might be, the populace, reaſoning from what was obvious, inſtead of what was remote, looked on him with deteſtation; his having declared an opinion againſt the utility of promoting the ſilk manufacture, was another cauſe which raiſed him a hoſt of enemies. This prejudice continued for ſeveral years, and at one time, ſuch was the general deteſtation, that it was thought neceſſary to give him a guard for his protection.

In 1785, Mr. Foſter was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer; an office, for which his comprehenſive and methodical mind, added to his extenſive knowledge of the reſources of the country, admirably fitted him. In 1786 he, however, reſigned the Chancellorſhip, on being choſen Speaker of the Houſe of Commons, in which dignified ſituation he has ſince continued. At the commencement of the late parliament, the friends of Mr. W. B. Ponſonby made a powerful effort in ſupport of *his* pretenſions to the chair; but they were unable to counteract the influence which the experience, talents, and information of Mr. Foſter deſervedly gave him. He was accordingly choſen then by a large majority; and by the preſent Houſe of Commons, he was elected without oppoſition, moſt of the popular member having ſeceded.

The duties of this high office are diſcharged by him with great ability. Deeply read in the law and privileges of parliament, no incident occurs in which he is not able to guide the conduct of the houſe, while his punctuality, love of order, and good taſte, give facility to buſineſs, and a decorous elegance to legiſlative arrangements.

As a politician Mr. Foſter ſeems to have acted ſteadily upon one principle, that of promoting, to the utmoſt of his power, the intereſts of Ireland, ſo far as thoſe intereſts did not interfere with any of the intereſts of Great Britain. Where a competition would exiſt, he has uniformly been ſwayed by the latter. There is another ſtrong feature in his political character; he has always profeſſed himſelf averſe to the admiſſion of Catholics to the privileges of the conſtitution. On the bill for allowing them to vote at elections, he delivered a ſpeech againſt that meaſure, confeſſedly the beſt which was made in either houſe on the ſubject.

In private life, Mr. Foſter appears rather high bred than affable; diſplaying more of the lofty manners of the laſt age, than the eaſy and familiar habits of the preſent. His ſtyle of living is magnificent, and his reliſh for *improving* inſatiable. To theſe cauſes, perhaps, it is to be attributed, that, with an income of not leſs than 8000 *l. per annum*, he is ſtill an embarraſſed man. Mrs. Foſter was created Baroneſs Oriel in 1790.

CHARLES

CHARLES BURNEY, MUS. D. F. R. S.

THIS gentleman, whoſe celebrity is equally great in the literary and the muſical world, is a native of Shrewſbury, and was born in 1726. He received the rudiments of his education at the free grammar ſchool of that town, and completed it at the public ſchool of Cheſter. At the latter place he commenced his muſical ſtudies, under Mr. Baker, organiſt of the cathedral, who was a pupil of Dr. Blow.

He returned to Shrewſbury about the year 1741, and continued the ſtudy of muſic, under his half-brother, Mr. James Burney, who was an eminent organiſt and teacher of muſic in that town.

In 1744 he met with Dr. Arne at Cheſter, who perceiving his talents to be reſpectable, prevailed upon his friends to ſend him to London. He continued to profit under the inſtructions of that celebrated maſter full three years.

In 1749, he was elected organiſt of St. Dione's back-church, Fenchurch-ſtreet, with an annual ſalary of only thirty pounds; and the ſame year was engaged to take the organ-part at the new concert eſtabliſhed at the King's-arms, Cornhill, inſtead of that which had been held at the Swan tavern, burnt down the year before. At this time he compoſed for Drury-lane theatre the following muſical pieces, viz. Robin Hood, a comic opera by Moſes Mendez; and Queen Mab, a pantomime; which laſt had aſtoniſhing ſucceſs, being played every winter for nearly thirty years.

Being in an ill ſtate of health, which, in the opinion of his phyſicians, indicated a conſumption, he was prevailed upon to retire into the country. Accordingly he went to Lynn Regis, in Norfolk, where he was choſen organiſt, with

with a ſalary of one hundred pounds a-year. Here he continued nine years, and formed the deſign of compiling his *General Hiſtory of Muſic.*

In 1760, his health being eſtabliſhed, he gladly returned once more to the metropolis, with a large and young family, and entered upon his profeſſion with an increaſe of profit and reputation. His eldeſt daughter, who was then about eight years old, obtained great notice in the muſical world by her aſtoniſhing performances on the harpſichord.

Soon after his arrival in London, he compoſed ſeveral much-admired concertos; and in 1766 he brought out at Drury-lane theatre a tranſlation of Rouſſeau's *Devin du Village*, which he had executed during his reſidence at Lynn. It had, however, no great ſucceſs.

In 1769, he had the honorary degree of Doctor of Muſic conferred upon him by the univerſity of Oxford; on which occaſion he performed an exerciſe in the muſical ſchool of that univerſity. This exerciſe, conſiſting of an anthem of great length, with an overture, airs, recitatives, and choruſes, was ſeveral times afterwards performed at the Oxford muſic meetings; and, under the direction of the famous Emanuel Bach, in St. Katherine's church, Hamburgh.

The year following he travelled through France and Italy, as well with a view to improvement in his profeſſion, as to collect materials for his intended *Hiſtory of Muſic*, an object which he had ſeldom out of his mind, from the time he firſt conceived the idea of ſuch a work. In 1771, he publiſhed his "Muſical Tour; or, Preſent State of Muſic in France and Italy." This work was very well received by the public, and is ſo good a model for travellers to keep their journals by, that Dr. Johnſon profeſſedly adopted it as his when he viſited the Hebrides. Speaking of his own book, "I had," ſaid the Doctor, "that clever dog Burney's "Muſical Tour in my eye."

In

In 1772, he travelled through the Netherlands, Germany and Holland, and in the courſe of the next year he publiſhed an account of his journey in two volumes octavo. The ſame year he was alſo elected Fellow of the Royal Society.

In 1776, appeared the firſt volume in quarto of his "*General Hiſtory of Muſic.*" The remaining volumes of this very elaborate and intelligent work were publiſhed at irregular periods; and the five, of which it now conſiſts, were not completed till the year 1789.

In 1779, at the deſire of Sir John Pringle, Dr. Burney drew up for the Philoſophical Tranſactions "An Account of Little CROTCH, the Infant Muſician, now Profeſſor of Muſic in the Univerſity of Oxford." The grand muſical feſtival in 1785, in commemoration of HANDEL, held in Weſtminſter-abbey, was conſidered as deſerving of a particular memoir; the hiſtorian of muſic was fixed upon as the moſt proper perſon to draw it up. Accordingly, the ſame year, a ſplendid volume was publiſhed by Dr. Burney, in quarto, for the benefit of the muſical fund. In this work the Doctor diſplayed eminent talents as a biographer; and the Life of Handel is one of the few good memoirs which exiſt in our language.

In 1796, he publiſhed the "Life of Metaſtaſio," in three volumes, octavo; but this performance wants that arrangement and judicious ſelection which characterize his former publications. Beſides theſe productions, Dr. Burney wrote "The Cunning Man;" "An Eſſay towards a Hiſtory of Comets;" "Plan of a Public Muſic School," &c. &c.

His muſical works, in addition to thoſe already mentioned, are; Sonatas for two Violins and a Baſs, two parts. Six Cornet Pieces, with an Introduction and Fugue for the Organ. A Cantata and Songs. Six Duets for two German Flutes

Flutes. Six Concertos for Violins, &c. in eight parts. Two Sonatas for a Piano Forte, Violin, and Violoncello, two parts. Six Harpſichord Leſſons, &c. &c.

Dr. Burney has been twice married, and has had eight children, of whom ſeveral have manifeſted very ſuperior abilities.

His eldeſt daughter was celebrated for her extraordinary muſical powers.

The ſecond, Madame D'ARBLAY, is univerſally known and admired as the author of Evelina, Cecilia, and Camilla.

The eldeſt ſon, JAMES, ſailed round the world with Captain Cook, and afterwards commanded the Briſtol, of 50 guns, in the Eaſt Indies: he has publiſhed ſome judicious tracts on the beſt means of defending our iſland againſt an invading enemy.

The ſecond ſon, Charles Burney, LL.D. is maſter of a reſpectable academy at Greenwich, and well known in the learned world by his profound knowledge of the Greek language, and his maſterly claſſical criticiſms in the Monthly Review.

For many years Doctor Burney reſided in the houſe (No. 36, St. Martin's-ſtreet, Leiceſter-fields) formerly occupied by Sir Iſaac Newton; during the laſt ten he has inhabited an elegant ſuite of apartments in Chelſea college, where he enjoys a handſome independency. He ſtill ſpends ſeveral hours every day in his library, which is ſtored with a great variety of valuable and curious books, many of them collected during his travels.

D. W.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM HERSCHEL, LL. D. F. R. S.

THIS country has the faireſt right to enrol the ſubject of the preſent article in the number of her ornaments, as his extraordinary abilities have been brought into action, ſtrengthened, and properly directed, under the auſpices of the Britiſh ſovereign.

Dr. William Herſchel is a native of Hanover, and was born November 15, 1738. He was the ſecond of four ſons, all of whom were brought up to their father's profeſſion, which was that of a muſician. In addition to theſe, Mr. Herſchel, ſenior, had two daughters; and therefore, burdened with ſo large a family, and in a poor country too, it is not at all a matter of wonder that the education which he beſtowed on his children was but ſcanty. Finding, however, in William a lively and inquiſitive genius, beyond what appeared in the other ſons, he gave him the advantage of a French maſter, under whom he made a rapid progreſs in the attainment of that language. Luckily, the tutor had a metaphyſical head, and ſo fond was he of his favourite ſtudy, as well as thoſe branches of ſcience which are connected with it, that he was deſirous of making his pupil acquainted therewith. From this worthy man young Herſchel gained a tolerable knowledge of logic, ethics, and metaphyſics; and his attainments therein excited in his mind a ſtrong and inſatiable thirſt for learning, with the commendable reſolution of exerting himſelf to the utmoſt to improve his ſtock of intellectual treaſures. Theſe, indeed, were all his inheritance, except a muſical inſtrument, and ſome manuſcript muſic. With this ſtore, unpromiſing as it was, our adventurer bade adieu to his native country while the flames

of

of war were ſpreading around it, and arrived in London in the year 1759. Here he was loſt in the crowd of candidates for employment, and we may well ſuppoſe that his ſituation in a ſtrange country, without friends, and in but indifferent circumſtances, muſt have been both painful and irkſome. Mr. Herſchel had not only a ſteady but a virtuous mind. Hereby he was enabled not only to bear up with fortitude againſt diſappointments, but to perſevere with alacrity in improving himſelf in an occupation, which hardly ſeemed to promiſe him a comfortable ſubſiſtence.

Finding but little proſpect of ſucceeding to his wiſh in the metropolis, he prudently reſolved upon going into the country; where muſical profeſſors being few, the chance of ſucceſs muſt be the greater. After viſiting different places in the north of England, his good fortune brought him to Halifax, where an organiſt being wanted, his merits were tried, and he procured the appointment. Here he alſo taught muſic with approbation and profit. The love of learning ſtill prevailed, and at this place he devoted his ſpare hours to the ſtudy of the languages, beginning with the Italian, on account of its intimate connection with his profeſſion. From the Italian he proceeded to the Latin, in which he made an eminent progreſs. He then attempted the Greek, but, after a little application, he abandoned the ſtudy of this language, conſidering it as too dry and abſtracted for his purpoſe.

In theſe purſuits, Mr. Herſchel was entirely ſelf-taught; and he holds out, in conſequence, an excellent and pertinent example to thoſe young perſons whoſe education has been circumſcribed within common limits, through the penury or narrow-mindedneſs of their friends.

A determined heart, and perſevering application, we ſee, from this inſtance, will overcome obſtacles that are apparently inſurmountable.

But

But it was not to the dead and living languages only that Mr. Herſchel bent his ardent and reſolute mind. He attempted to gain a knowledge of the moſt abſtruſe ſciences. His firſt effort was to make himſelf maſter of the *theory of harmonies*; and it is obſervable, that the book which he made choice of for this purpoſe, was no other than the profound and intricate treatiſe of the learned Dr. Smith upon that ſubject. He got through this work, however, without any aſſiſtance; and ſo great was the pleaſure which he derived from it, that he reſolved upon ſtudying the other branches of mathematical learning. He began with algebra, which he ſoon maſtered; thence he proceeded to Euclid, and ſo on to fluxions. The ground-work being thus laid, the ſtudy of the other ſciences became eaſy.

His ſituation at Halifax was favourable to his grammatical and mathematical purſuits; and it is well that he thus laid in a thorough ſtock of ſound knowledge in what may be called his retirement. In 1766 he exchanged this place for one of a very different deſcription, being elected organiſt to the Octagon chapel at Bath. Here he entered at once upon a great round of profeſſional buſineſs, performing at the rooms, theatre, oratorios, and public and private concerts, beſides having a great number of pupils. In ſuch a hurry of employment, and in the immediate circle of luxury and amuſement, very few men of Mr. Herſchel's profeſſion and age would have found time to purſue ſtudies ſeemingly ſo unprofitable and unintereſting as mathematics.

So far, however, from relaxing in his ſcientific ſtudies, he purſued them with increaſing ardour, and after a day of hard labour, he commonly retired at night to his mathematical books, and ſpent many hours in an unwearied attention to the moſt abſtruſe queſtions in geometry and fluxions.

In the Ladies' Diary, for 1780, appeared an elegant and profound

profound anſwer by him to a very difficult prize queſtion, reſpecting the vibrations of a muſical chord, loaded in the middle with a ſmall weight.

About this time his ſtudies were chiefly directed to optics and aſtronomy. The pleaſure which he had experienced from viewing the heavens through a two-feet Gregorian teleſcope, which he borrowed at Bath, made him deſirous of poſſeſſing a complete ſet of aſtronomical inſtruments. His firſt object was to get a larger teleſcope; and being ignorant of the price at which ſuch inſtruments are uſually charged, he deſired a friend in London to buy one for him. This gentleman, ſurpriſed at the ſum demanded for the teleſcope, declined purchaſing it till he had informed Mr. Herſchel of the circumſtance. Our aſtronomer's aſtoniſhment was equal to that of his friend's; but inſtead of dropping his purſuit, he formed what many would have regarded as a moſt romantic reſolution, that of making a teleſcope for himſelf. He did not content himſelf with a ſpeculative idea, but from the ſcanty inſtructions he could gather out of optical treatiſes, actually ſet about this arduous undertaking. Diſappointment ſucceeded diſappointment; but all this only ſerved to act as a ſtimulus to his ardent mind, and at length his perſeverance was crowned with ſuch ſucceſs, that, in 1774, he enjoyed the exquiſite ſatisfaction of beholding the heavens through a five-feet Newtonian reflector, of his own workmanſhip. Our modern Galileo did not reſt at this attainment, great as it was, but, with a laudable ambition, ſet about making inſtruments of a greater magnitude than had hitherto been known. After conſtructing thoſe of ſeven, and even ten feet, he thought of forming one not leſs than double the latter ſize. So great was his patience, ſo determined his perſeverance, that, in perfecting the parabolical figure of a ſeven-feet teleſcope, he did not make leſs than

two

two hundred ſpecula before he obtained one that would bear any power that was applied to it.

While he was thus laborioufly employed in his mathematical purſuits, he did not neglect the immediate duties of his profeſſion. Yet ſo much did his new occupation engage his mind, that he has frequently ſtolen from the theatre or the concert-room, to look at the ſtars, and then return again in time to bear his part among the muſical performers. This conſtancy to Urania was at length moſt bountifully rewarded, by the diſcovery of a new planet in our ſyſtem, to which he gave the name of *Georgium Sidus*; but which foreign aſtronomers have generally termed *Herſchel.*

This important diſcovery was made in the night of the 13th of March, 1781. It was by no means a mere accidental circumſtance which favoured our aſtronomer with the view of this planet; but the reſult of a regular, patient, and ſcientific chain of obſervations. When he firſt ſaw it, he was not quite certain that it belonged to our ſyſtem; but a cloſer enquiry enabled him to aſcertain with exactneſs its planetary diſk, as well as its motion.

This diſcovery was communicated the ſame year to the Royal Society; and in conſequence of it, Mr. Herſchel was unanimouſly elected a member, and had the annual gold medal beſtowed upon him for his ſervice to the intereſts of ſcience.

The year following, his Majeſty took him under his immediate patronage, and conſtituted him his aſtronomer, with a handſome penſion. On this he quitted Bath, and his muſical inſtruments, and went to live at Slough, near Windſor, at a houſe appointed for him by his royal maſter.

Here he was enabled to carry on his projects with vigour, and thoſe which had hitherto failed of ſucceſs, were now brought to perfection. While at Bath, he had formed the bold ſcheme of conſtructing a teleſcope of thirty feet, and actually

actually made several trials to carry his object into effect. But though he failed there, since his residence at Windsor, he has far exceeded this design, and completed an instrument of no less than forty! The irregularities in the speculum, and the impossibility of rendering the parts of so enormous an instrument as this mathematically exact, have hitherto prevented his being able to make any actual observations with it. It is a vulgar error, that the discoveries of Dr. Herschel have been occasioned by the enormous magnifying power of his telescope; the fact is, that no such large power is necessary, or useful; and that all Dr. Herschel's discoveries have been made with reflectors of from ten to twenty feet, and with powers of from sixty to three hundred. His discoveries are to be ascribed to his laudable perseverance, and not to the size of his great telescope, which is rather an object of curiosity than of utility.

In 1783, he discovered a volcanic mountain in the moon, and in 1787 made further observations upon that planet, and found two others therein, which emitted fire from their summits. In prosecuting his enquiries respecting his own planet (if we may be allowed so to express ourselves), he has discovered it to be surrounded with rings, and to have six satellites.

For all these important additions to the stock of national knowledge, our astronomer had the honour of receiving from the university of Oxford the degree of a Doctor of Laws; which is the more creditable, as that learned body is very sparing of its academic honours upon persons who have not been educated within its walls.

Dr. Herschel has been a regular contributor to the Philosophical Transactions ever since his first communication in 1781, respecting his discovery of the new planet. Some of his papers are extremely curious; and he has hazarded a

few

few bold conjectures reſpecting the ſun, and other planetary bodies, which would hardly have been received from a leſs accurate obſerver.

In his aſtronomical purſuits the doctor is materially aſſiſted by his ſiſter, Miſs Caroline Herſchel, who has diſtinguiſhed herſelf greatly by her application to this ſublime ſtudy, and has communicated to the Royal Society ſome very ingenious reports of obſervations made by her upon the ſtarry orbs.

Dr. Herſchel is a man of unaſſuming manners, a free, communicative, and pleaſant companion; and enjoys that vigour of conſtitution which is ſo eſſential to an aſtronomical obſerver in a climate like that of England. It may be hoped, that his name will endure as long as the planetary ſyſtem, to illuſtrate which he has devoted his life.

SIR

SIR NASH GROSE

IS a native of London, and ſon of Edward Groſe, Eſq. Being deſigned for the bar, he was admitted of Lincoln's Inn, in Trinity term, 1756. In a ſhort time he diſcovered very reſpectable profeſſional abilities, and eſtabliſhed a character which ſoon procured him an extenſive ſhare of buſineſs.

After about eight years practice as a barriſter, he was called to the degree of ſergeant, and being conſidered as a ſound lawyer, on the deceaſe of that moſt reſpectable man, the late patriotic Sergeant Glynn, he took the lead in the court of Common Pleas. Mr. Groſe had the happineſs of uniting what very few attain, the talent of a ſpecial pleader with a conſiderable portion of eloquence.

In 1787, without the intervention of great friends, powerful alliances, or parliamentary intereſt, he was raiſed to a ſeat in the court of King's Bench, of which he is now the third judge: and ſoon after this promotion his majeſty conferred the honour of knighthood upon him.

In his judicial capacity, he has conducted himſelf ſo as to avoid reflection or reproach; and this, in the preſent times, evinces no ſmall degree of integrity. Being entirely unconnected with political parties, he cannot reaſonably hope to ſucceed to the Chief Juſticeſhip of either of the courts, and therefore has no other object in view but to diſpenſe juſtice with credit to himſelf, and advantage to the public; for he is now arrived at what to him may be looked on as the *ne plus ultra* of his profeſſion.

P.

MR

MR. KEMBLE

IS brother to the celebrated actreſs, Mrs. Siddons, and the eldeſt ſon of Mr. Roger Kemble, who was many years manager of an itinerant company of comedians.

When a boy, Mr. K. uſed to appear on his father's ſtage in ſuch characters as ſuited his age, but was not by him deſigned for a theatrical life. The Kemble family are catholic, and the old gentleman placed his ſon John at a Roman catholic academy in Staffordſhire; whence he was ſent to the Engliſh college at Douay, in order to be qualified for the church.

While there, he was equally noted for the ſtrength of his memory, and admired for his happy mode of delivery.

But being at length tired of the college trammels, he forſook his ſtudies, and returned to England, before the age of twenty, without his father's conſent. Having landed at Briſtol, he walked to Glouceſter, where hearing that the company was at Brecknock, he proceeded thither, but met with a cool reception; his father, indeed, actually refuſed to relieve him; but the actors generouſly aſſiſted him with money, by way of ſubſcription, to which his father, according to a report, which we truſt is unfounded, was with difficulty perſuaded to add a guinea!

On this, he returned to Glouceſterſhire with his pittance, and joined Chamberlin's company, with whom he made his firſt eſſay on the ſtage of a ſmall town in that county. His profits from this were ſcanty and his diſtreſs great, which ſometimes involved him in rather ludicrous ſituations.

Kemble's chief fault ſeemed to be an unaccountable negligence, but he was ſtill looked on as a riſing actor. In hopes

of procuring more profit and reputation than his preſent ſituation afforded him, he joined with the manager of Cheltenham theatre, in order to give a miſcellaneous entertainment. Young Kemble was to lecture, and his partner to entertain the company with *ſleight of hand tricks!* Kemble obtained great credit by his eloquence, but neither of them gained much money; and we have only to lament, that ſuch men ſhould have been reduced ſo low by the frowns of the fickle goddeſs.

After this, our theatrical hero joined a company at Worceſter, where he remained until his ſiſter introduced him to Mr. Younger; from which time he gradually improved, until he obtained a high degree of eminence in his profeſſion.

About this period he produced "Beliſarius," a tragedy, and a poem called "The Palace of Mercy."

From Younger's company he was introduced to that of Mr. Wilkinſon, at York; who being appointed manager at Edinburgh, took him along with him; there he was well received, and delivered *a lecture on oratory*, which gained him reputation as a man of letters.

Mr. Kemble played in Dublin in 1782, at Smock-alley theatre, and ſucceeded admirably, particularly in Jephſon's "Count of Narbonne." His ſiſter ſoon after procured him an engagement at Drury-lane theatre.

His firſt appearance in the metropolis was in Hamlet, and but few firſt appearances in London have given greater ſatisfaction. His ſolemn demeanor and ſtyle of acting are admirably ſuited to the character. He has often repeated it, but always in an improved ſtate; and his Hamlet is now, perhaps, as finiſhed a portrait as any on the ſtage. Since that period he has performed a great variety of tragic characters, always reſpectably, and ſometimes with acknowledged excellence.

His

His perſon, action, and deportment, joined to a diſtinct and claſſical utterance, fit him particularly for a tragedian. The pathetic complaints of Jaffier are, however, delivered with torpor, nor is his voice equal to the burſts of rage in Richard, or Macbeth. In the lover he is alſo defective; but in the deſpair of Beverly, the jealouſy of Othello, and the inquietude of royal John, he is peculiarly ſucceſsful. His great fault is the always aiming at being original, in which he frequently fails; but yet in thoſe attempts he ſometimes ſtrikes out new beauties. On the whole, he is one of the firſt performers of the preſent day.

Mr. Kemble has produced a farce called the "Projects," and has altered Bickerſtaff's comedy of "'Tis well it's no "Worſe," into a farce called the "Pannel," as well as Louvet's "Lodoiſka;" he has alſo fitted the old play of "Love in many Maſks," for the modern ſtage.

On Mr. King's quitting the management of Drury-lane, Mr. Kemble was appointed his ſucceſſor; but it is certain the houſe under his controul was not very ſucceſsful: this, however, may be attributed partly to want of taſte in the town, and partly to want of countenance in a certain quarter; for he aſſuredly poſſeſſes the talents requiſite to judge of new pieces, and a ſufficient knowledge of the ſtage to get up ſuch as are old in the beſt manner.

Mr. Kemble married the widow of the late Mr. Brereton. It is ſaid that the daughter of a deceaſed miniſter of ſtate was ſtrongly attached to him, which coming to the father's ears, he prudently offered a fortune of 3000 *l.* on condition he would marry, immediately, any lady he liked. He accordingly caſt his eyes on Mrs. Brereton, and thus ſecured to himſelf a conſiderable acceſſion of fortune, and a moſt excellent wife.

MISS SEWARD.

THIS lady, ſo well known, and ſo much reſpected in the literary world, is the only daughter of the reverend Mr. Seward, rector of Eyam, in Derbyſhire; prebendary and canon-reſidentiary of Litchfield.

Being an author himſelf, he was fond of giving his daughter a taſte for letters, particularly poetry; and at the early age of three years ſhe could repeat the L'Allegro of Milton: at nine ſhe could recite the firſt three books of Paradiſe Loſt with ſpirit and propriety. About the ſame age ſhe converted ſeveral of the pſalms into Engliſh verſe.

But her mother not approving this turn for poetry, perſuaded her to relinquiſh her literary purſuits; ſhe ſtill, however, indulged now and then in her beloved occupation, and ſacrificed by ſtealth to the muſes.

A friend of the family happening to doubt whether the poems ſhewn as her's had not received ſome paternal aſſiſtance, he called one evening when he knew her father was abſent, and requeſted the young lady to favour him with a few lines on any ſubject, adding "Let me write a ſtanza, "and you finiſh it; he accordingly indited one, and left her: on the ſucceeding morning ſhe preſented him with ſome verſes, which convinced him of her merit and his own injuſtice.

On the death of an only and beloved ſiſter, which happened a few years after, ſhe wrote an Elegy as ſhe was ſitting in the garden. Other poems flowed rapidly from her pen; and becoming acquainted with the late Lady Miller, of Bath-Eaſton, ſhe was a frequent and ſucceſsful candidate for the prize beſtowed at that villa.

Her

Her firſt regular publication was a beautiful Elegy on the death of Captain Cook, which, with an "Ode to the "Sun, (a Bath-Eaſton prize poem,) were publiſhed in quarto (1780.) In the courſe of the next year, ſhe compoſed a "Monody," on her friend Major André. Theſe two productions induced Dr. Darwin to ſay, that ſhe was the inventreſs of "epic elegy." Since that period, ſhe has written "A Poem to the Memory of Lady Miller;"—"Louiſa," a poetical novel; an Ode on "General Elliot's return from Gibraltar;" and "Llangollen Vale."

Miſs Seward has alſo diſtinguiſhed herſelf as a tranſlator, for ſhe has clothed one of the moſt elegant of the Latin poets in an Engliſh dreſs, having preſented the public with a new verſion of ſeveral of the Odes of Horace. They have been thought ſomewhat too diffuſe, but are allowed to exhibit proofs of a claſſical taſte and fine imagination.

EARL

EARL OF CLARE,

LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND.

WHETHER we conſider the importance reſulting from official ſituation, or that which great activity, conſiderable talents, and indefatigable zeal, always attach to their poſſeſſor, this nobleman is certainly the firſt man in the Iriſh adminiſtration. Whatever may be the fate of that unhappy country, ſo far as that fate is influenced by the preſent conteſt, it may be fairly attributed to his wiſdom or to his weakneſs, to his firmneſs or to his folly.

Lord Clare, although now occupying the higheſt law-office in Ireland, and poſſeſſing almoſt unlimited influence in its councils, cannot boaſt a long line of noble anceſtors.

He is removed but two degrees from a man in the humbleſt walk of ſociety—a *catholic* peaſant—whoſe life was diſtinguiſhed only by a gradual tranſition from extreme poverty to an honourable competency, and that too acquired by uſeful induſtry.

With the change produced in the circumſtances of the family, a change ſeems to have alſo taken place in its creed, for while yet a very young man, we find the late Mr. Fitzgibbon, his lordſhip's father, a ſtaunch and zealous proteſtant. It is ſaid, however, that he was originally deſtined to officiate at a popiſh altar, and that he had actually received the education which was conſidered neceſſary to fit him for that ſtation. If this account be true, it is at leaſt certain that either the maturity of his judgment, or a change in his views, ſoon made him *recant his errors*; for he was yet in early life, when he was called to the Iriſh bar, to which catholics were then inadmiſſible, and at which he afterwards became a highly eſteemed and ſucceſsful pleader.

During

During that period, the buſineſs of the courts was monopolized by a few eminent barriſters; but the talents and the induſtry of Mr. Fitzgibbon forced him forward in ſpite of envy, and in a few years he himſelf became one of thoſe who, in ſome reſpects, claimed all the honours and the emoluments of the profeſſion. So ſucceſsful indeed was he, that in the courſe of a life not uncommonly long, he is ſaid to have realiſed a fortune of nearly 8000l. per annum.

Of this gentleman, Lord Clare was the only ſon. A profeſſion in which the father had been ſo ſucceſsful was naturally choſen by him for a favourite child, who was to ſupport the future fortunes and honours of the family. He was accordingly entered at an early age a ſtudent of the univerſity of Dublin, where he was contemporary with ſome of the moſt celebrated men who have diſtinguiſhed themſelves in all the recent and important tranſactions that have occurred in Ireland; ſuch as the late Mr. Flood, Mr. Grattan, Mr. Foſter, the preſent ſpeaker of the Iriſh Commons, &c. He is yet remembered by ſome of the old members of that ſeminary, on account of the ability and induſtry which even then marked his character.

Having completed his courſe of collegiate ſtudies, and kept his terms at the Temple, he was at length called to the Iriſh bar, with advantages poſſeſſed by few at the outſet of life, and theſe were ſupported by a high character, and a fortune which, even independent of any encreaſe from the ſucceſs of forenſic labours, ſecured to him ſomething infinitely beyond a competence. Affluence, however, did not produce in Mr. Fitzgibbon what is too commonly its effect on the youthful mind—an indolent apathy. His aſſiduity in profeſſional purſuits was not exceeded by any of his rivals at the bar; and though there was no man who drank more deeply of the cup of pleaſure, yet few toiled through more buſineſs,

or

or in the diſcharge of it diſplayed more of that accuracy of knowledge which is the reſult only of attentive induſtry.

It was by the obſervance of a rule of life which none but ſtrong minds have ever preſcribed to themſelves, namely, "to ſuffer no portion of time to paſs without filling it either with buſineſs or with pleaſure," that Mr. F. was enabled to unite thoſe generally incompatible purſuits. With ſuch application, and with talents certainly above the common level, though perhaps far below that at which his friends would place them, he ſoon roſe to eminence.

In the Houſe of Commons, of which he became a member ſhortly after his call to the bar, by the operation of this principle, aided by a kind of eloquence, which, though it was neither very brilliant nor very perſuaſive, yet being accompanied by a certain air of confident ſuperiority, a conſiderable effect was produced; and he was ſoon eſteemed one of the moſt efficient ſupporters of the party he eſpouſed.

Without affecting popularity at any time, he launched into political life, uninvited and unbought, the partiſan of the court, and the profeſſed contemner of the *profanum vulgus:* in this ſentiment he has been wonderfully conſiſtent.—From his firſt entrance he has not, in one ſingle inſtance, ſtarted from the track before him. His conduct has been marked by an unvaried and uniform ſupport of the Britiſh cabinet, and an avowed, perhaps a revolting contempt, for the principles, motives, and objects, of what has been called the popular party.

He had not been long in parliament, before the calamities brought upon Ireland by the continuance of the American conteſt, rendered it neceſſary to ſeek, in an enlargement of her commerce, for ſome remedy againſt a general bankruptcy. The Commons urged by the cries of a famiſhing people, called for what was then denominated "a free trade," and Mr. F. much to his honour, *did not oppoſe* the application.—

The

The defenceleſs ſtate in which the kingdom had been left, by drawing off the troops to ſerve on a diſtant continent, ſuggeſted to the community the neceſſity of arming for ſelf-defence. Mr. F. appeared in the ranks as a private; but it would be unjuſt to charge him with participating in thoſe high-flown ſentiments of national pride, and love of freedom, which ſoon began to actuate the volunteer army, and which no doubt gave *ſome* ſtrength to the ſubſequent declaration of legiſlative independence by the Iriſh parliament. He rather ſeemed to be carried forward by the irreſiſtible impulſe of national ſentiment, than to have advanced with it toward the goal. Accordingly, when an occaſion occurred of retiring without diſhonour from a cauſe ſo little congenial to his principles, he ſeparated from the vulgar herd. The moment choſen by him was during the diſcuſſion of the long-agitated queſtion, relative to the SIMPLE REPEAL of the ſixth of Geo. III. From that time to the preſent he has continued the zealous advocate for a ſtrong and energetic government, and the powerful opponent of every man who attempted to reform, or innovate on preſent eſtabliſhments.

When Mr. Scott was appointed Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench in Ireland, Mr. Fitzgibbon ſucceeded him as Attorney General. No man was ever better fitted for the office. His firmneſs, his confidence in his own powers, and the bold tone with which he hurled defiance at his parliamentary opponents, on every queſtion connected with legal or conſtitutional knowledge, often appalled the minor members of oppoſition, and ſometimes kept even their chiefs at bay. Theſe qualities, however, did not always conſtitute a ſure defence. The repulſe which on one memorable evening of debate, he experienced on the part of the late LORD, then Mr. O'Neil, of Shane's Caſtle, whoſe manly and honeſt mind caught fire at the haughty and dictatorial language with

with which the Attorney General had dared to addreſs him, is remembered by thoſe who were then converſant in the politics of the day, and probably will not ſoon be forgotten.

But though this daring, and, as it is often called, overbearing ſpirit, did ſometimes miſcarry, in general it inſured him ſucceſs. A remarkable inſtance of its efficacy occurred at a time when the minds of the people were extremely agitated by the rejecting of their petitions for reform, and for protecting duties. At a moment when the ferment ſeemed to have ariſen to a very dangerous height, an aggregate meeting of *all the inhabitants* of the metropolis was, on a requiſition of ſeveral reſpectable perſons, convened by the high ſheriffs of Dublin. The Attorney General was then the moſt unpopular man in the country; and the mob had for ſome time been in the habits of offering perſonal inſult to thoſe whom they ſuſpected of being adverſe to their wiſhes. Unawed, however, by theſe circumſtances, Mr. F. attended only by one or two friends, made his way through the crowd, reached the huſtings, interrupted a popular orator in the midſt of his harangue, told the ſheriffs that they had acted illegally in calling the meeting, commanded them to leave the chair, and threatened them with an information *ex officio* * if they preſumed to continue in it. He then left the aſtoniſhed aſſembly, amidſt the hiſſes of the mob; and the ſheriffs inſtantly diſſolved the meeting.

Hitherto Mr. F. had acted with an adminiſtration which poſſeſſed both the power and the will to reward his exertions. When the event of the king's illneſs, in 1789, unhinged the Iriſh government, he ſtood in different circumſtances. On that occaſion, a majority of the parliament, among whom were many of the oldeſt ſervants of the crown, declared for the

* A proſecution without the intervention of a Grand Jury, received by him.

the right of Ireland, as an independent country, to chooſe its own regent. The Britiſh cabinet controverted that right, and inſiſted that the regent choſen by the Britiſh Parliament ſhould be the regent for both countries. Mr. F. though no longer ſupported by a majority, remained firm to his Engliſh friends, and reſiſted with his wonted boldneſs, not only the voice of the people, but what was of more immediate concern, a vaſt parliamentary majority. The unexpected recovery of his Majeſty, to Mr. F. certainly an happy event, rewarded his ſuperior wiſdom, or his greater foreſight; for on Lord Lifford's death, he was created a baron, and appointed Chancellor: it is alſo not a little memorable, that he is the firſt Iriſhman who has filled that important office!

So far as reſpects juſtice, the country has had no reaſon to lament his appointment, for his activity and diſpatch have made chancery ſuits almoſt ceaſe to be an inheritance. He has baniſhed chicane and unneceſſary delay from his court; and though his decrees may ſometimes be blamed as premature, the paucity of appeals ſeems to augur, that all complaint on this ſcore is groundleſs.

Since his elevation to the bench and the peerage, he has had repeated opportunities of diſplaying his former ſpirit, and expreſſing, with even more effect than before, his deteſtation of popular claims, and particularly that of reform. He has ſhewn an equal abhorrence of the catholic pretenſions to ſhare in the privileges of the conſtitution. Of their claim to the repreſentative franchiſe, it is known that he was the decided enemy; and though by the paternal regard of his majeſty, and the prudence of the Britiſh cabinet, the conceſſion of that privilege was recommended to the Iriſh legiſlature, and adopted in conſequence of that recommendation, yet *his* opinion remained unchanged. With reſpect to ſubſequent claims, the Britiſh miniſtry have paid more attention to his advice.

His

His Lordſhip was lately in London, and was reported to have left the ſeals in commiſſion, in order to complete a plan which at one time would have been viewed with diſlike by both countries. But ſuch is now the miſerable ſtate of his native land, that any change muſt be for the better; and if an UNION is attended with nothing elſe than a ceſſation of carnage, every good man muſt rejoice at the proſpect of it.

W.

RICHARD

RICHARD CUMBERLAND, Esq.

IS the ſon of Dr. Deniſon Cumberland, late Biſhop of Clonfert and Killaloe, in Ireland, and great grandſon of the learned Engliſh divine, Dr. Richard Cumberland, Biſhop of Peterborough, author of a treatiſe on the Law of Nature, *Origines Gentium*, &c. By the mother's ſide he is grandſon of the celebrated critic, Dr. Richard Bentley.

Mr. Cumberland was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took the degree of B. A. By the friendſhip of the late Lord Sackville, better known by the title of Lord George Germaine, he was introduced to the office of Trade and Plantations, where he ſucceeded the late Mr. Pownall as ſecretary, in which poſt he continued until the ſuppreſſion of that appointment by Mr. Burke's bill, when he retired on a penſion.

Mr. Cumberland, while a very young man, wrote ſome verſes on the birth of the Prince of Wales. His firſt publication was the "Baniſhment of Cicero," which was refuſed by Mr. Garrick, but appeared in print in 1761. This ſhould have been rather called a dramatic poem than a tragedy.

The "Summer's Tale," and the "Brothers," two comedies, were his next productions; but neither of them have added much to his reputation.

In 1771, he was reconciled to Garrick, with whom he had been on bad terms ever ſince the refuſal of his tragedy, and that gentleman brought out his "Weſt Indian" in a capital ſtyle. This piece has ſtamped Mr. Cumberland's character as an excellent dramatic writer, and it is certainly one of the moſt ſterling comedies on the Engliſh ſtage.

He now began to be eſteemed one of the beſt dramatic writers of the age, and alſo one of the moſt prolific; for

next

next year he produced the "Fashionable Lover," which was well received; as was likewise, in 1774, his lively farce called the "Fate of Pandora, or a Trip to Newmarket." His "Choleric Man, which came forth in 1775, is said to have some affinity to Sir Richard Steele's "Tender Husband:" his "Battle of Hastings," a tragedy, was rather badly received. In 1776, he published a thin quarto volume of Odes.

About the year 1780, he was sent on national business, to Madrid, but did not appear there in a public character. On his return, he published, in 1782, "Anecdotes of eminent Painters in Spain, during the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries," two volumes, 12mo. Next year he brought out a tragedy on the stage, called the "Mysterious Husband," and addressed a Letter to the Bishop of Landaff respecting ecclesiastical grievances. It contained some wit, and was ably answered by an anonymous writer.

In 1785, he had much business on his hands; for he produced "The Carmelite," allowed to be the best tragedy he has written; and also a comedy, called the "Natural Son."* In the course of the same year, he published a character of his deceased friend, Lord Viscount Sackville, and the first edition of the Observer. Next year a second edition appeared; and the subsequent additions have now swelled the work to five volumes. These essays abound with pleasing and instructive information, and discover extensive reading.

In 1787, Mr. Cumberland presented the world with "An accurate descriptive Catalogue of the Paintings in the King of Spain's Palace at Madrid;" soon after this the comedy of the "Impostors," and a novel in two volumes, called

* Miss Plumptre has lately presented to the public another "*Natural Son*," being a faithful and elegant translation of KOTZEBUE's famous play of that title, and which has been so much admired on the British stage, under the altered title of *Lovers' Vows*.

called "Arundel," made their appearance. In the latter he is accuſed, but on very ſlight foundation, as ſeeming to palliate adultery and duelling.

After this, his talents ſeem to have lain fallow for ſome years, as he did not produce any thing until 1792, when he publiſhed his poem called "Calvary, or the Death of Chriſt." Next ſeaſon he wrote the ſongs and choruſes in the comic opera of the "Armourer." In 1794, he produced the "Box-lobby Challenge," a comedy; and alſo his deſervedly-eſteemed comedy of the "Jew," a play written with the laudable intention of removing the ſtigma which accompanies that unhappy and much-perſecuted people. His attempt of the next year conſiſted of the "Wheel of Fortune;" he alſo preſented the town with another comedy, called "Firſt Love," and another novel, in four volumes, called "Henry."

His muſe, which muſt be allowed to be a ſpirited one, ſeems to know no repoſe; for in 1796 he produced "Days of Yore," a drama in three acts; and the next year "The Laſt of the Family." His laſt piece is the comedy of "Falſe Impreſſions."

When we conſider the number, the merit, and the exquiſiteneſs of his writings, Mr. Cumberland muſt be allowed to rank high as a dramatic writer.

SIR

SIR ARCHIBALD MACDONALD.

Sir Archibald Macdonald is the third ſon* of Macdonald of Slate, in the iſles; his mother was of the houſe of Eglinton.

Mr. Macdonald was bred to the Engliſh bar, but had never any great practice. His buſineſs conſiſted chiefly in Scotch appeals. Yet if not highly ſucceſsful in his profeſſional career, he was at leaſt deſerving of ſucceſs; and his good fortune having at length introduced him to the acquaintance of the daughter of a noble Marquis, who conſented to their marriage, Mr. Macdonald in conſequence of this connexion beheld the higheſt honours of the law lie open to his view.

By the intereſt of his noble father-in-law, he was accordingly appointed, in 1780, a king's counſel and a Welch judge; he had been before brought into parliament for Hendon, and at the general election which occurred during the year he put on his ſilk gown, he was returned for Newcaſtle-under-line, a borough under the influence of Marquis, then Lord, Stafford.

In parliament, he of courſe followed the line of politics purſued by the family into which he was adopted, that is, he ſupported Lord North, until he began to totter. As a parliamentary ſpeaker, Mr. Macdonald was eaſy, fluent, intelligible, and conciſe.

Lord Stafford, on joining Mr. Pitt, procured for his ſon-in-law the place of Solicitor-general (1784), and in 1788, on the promotion of Sir Peter Arden to the Maſter of the Rolls, he was knighted, and appointed Attorney-general in his room. It is no leſs remarkable than true, that the poſ-

ſeſſion

* He was a poſthumous child.

ſeſſion of theſe two high offices in the law did not bring Sir Archibald any conſiderable addition of practice as a counſel. The number of his proſecutions were thought to have greatly affected the liberty of the preſs.

However, after a few years longer ſtay at the bar, he was promoted to be Chief Baron of the Exchequer, having previouſly been called to the degree of Sergeant at Law.

In conſequence of his marriage with Lady Louiſa Gower he has ſeveral children.

P.

MRS. SIDDONS.

WHEN woman paſſes through that thorny path of pleaſure the ſtage, without being drawn aſtray by the temptations which perpetually aſſail the traveller, our eſteem and veneration ought ever to await her. In this age, degenerate as it is, we have had the pleaſure of ſeeing many females ſupporting unſullied characters in theatrical life, and among them this lady certainly claims pre-eminence from her ſplendid powers, joined to an unſpotted fame.

Miſs Kemble (for this was her maiden name) was the eldeſt daughter of the manager of an itinerant company of comedians, and made her firſt eſſay as a ſinger, but ſoon abandoned that line and attempted tragedy. Early in life ſhe conceived a paſſion for Mr. Siddons, in which not being indulged by her parents, ſhe quitted the ſtage, and hired herſelf as lady's maid in the family of Mrs. Greathead, of Guy's-cliff, near Warwick, where ſhe remained about a year; and then reſolving to unite herſelf with the man of her affections, ſhe was married to Mr. Siddons, and ſoon after joined a ſtrolling company of no great reputation. Both ſhe and her huſband had, however, the good fortune to be engaged by Mr. Younger to perform at Liverpool, Birmingham, &c. With him ſhe remained a few years, and acquired both profit and reputation, which latter procured her an engagement at Drury-lane houſe, where ſhe performed ſuch parts as Mrs. Strickland, Mrs. Epicene, and the Queen in Richard the Third. She was, however, conſidered merely as a ſecond-rate actreſs; and being unfortunately placed in an after-piece written by the editor of a newſpaper, which had the ill luck to be damned, the

ſcurrilous

ſcurrilous author left no opportunity of injuring her reputation, and ſhe quitted the London boards for a time, to return to them afterwards with increaſed luſtre.

At Bath, whither ſhe repaired, ſhe was obſerved to improve rapidly, and is ſaid to have been uſefully aſſiſted by the leſſons of Mr. Pratt, then a bookſeller in that city. There ſhe attracted the notice of the audience, and had the good fortune to be patroniſed by the Ducheſs of Devonſhire, who procured her another engagement at Drury-lane. Before ſhe quitted Bath, ſhe ſpoke a farewell addreſs, which ſhe herſelf had written, and which ſhe delivered with her uſual excellence.

She made her ſecond appearance at Drury-lane, on the 10th October 1792, in the character of "Iſabella," and aſtoniſhed the houſe with ſuch a diſplay of powers, as they had ſeldom witneſſed before. Her fame was ſoon ſpread abroad, and the theatre overflowed every night; the taſte for tragedy returned; and the manager, whoſe "Critic" ſeems to have been expreſsly written to drive Melpomene from the ſtage, received "golden favours" from her votaries. Far from proving ungrateful, he generouſly gave Mrs. Siddons an extra-benefit, and increaſed her ſalary. Her good ſucceſs was the means of introducing her ſiſter, Miſs F. Kemble, on the ſame ſtage; and ſhe performed "Jane Shore," while her near relative played "Alicia," on her firſt appearance. The latter, however, not altogether fulfilling the expectations of the public, honourably withdrew, in conſequence of a marriage with Mr. Twiſs, a literary gentleman, and a well-known traveller.

Mrs. Siddons's *extra*-benefit was given her before Chriſtmas; ſhe then appeared in "Belvidera," and gained freſh laurels, and an enormous receipt. The two counſellors Pigot and Fielding were ſo highly delighted, that they collected a ſubſcription among the gentlemen of the bar, of one hundred

guineas, and preſented them to her, accompanied with a polite letter, as a token of their eſteem. This was an honour which, we believe, has not been conferred on any actor or actreſs ſince the time when Booth gave ſuch general ſatisfaction in the character of "Cato."

In the ſummer, this great and amiable actreſs went to Dublin, the inhabitants of which were equally aſtoniſhed at her powers. On her return for the winter (1783-4), ſhe performed, for the firſt time, "by command of their Majeſties." During the ſucceeding ſummer, ſhe took a ſecond trip to Ireland, and alſo viſited Edinburgh, in both of which places, ſhe not only received great ſalaries, but very conſiderable preſents from unknown hands, particularly a ſilver urn which was ſent after her to London, on which were engraved theſe words, "*A reward to merit.*"

Envy and malice, as uſual, purſued merit; and to theſe alone we can attribute the attack made on her in a newſpaper, reſpecting her treatment of an unhappy ſiſter, &c. Theſe reports had, however, ſuch an effect on the town, that on her firſt appearance on the ſtage in 1784, ſhe was ſaluted with the cry of "*off! off!*" Her friends at length obtained her a hearing; and her huſband and brother, by means of uncommon exertions, ſucceeded in refuting the calumnies to which ſhe had been expoſed. She was accordingly reſtored to public favour. Although ſhe had conducted herſelf during this conteſt with great compoſure, yet it made ſuch an impreſſion on her mind, that ſhe determined to retire to Wales with the few thouſands ſhe had then ſaved; but the perſuaſions of her friends, and a conſideration of the welfare of her family, made her alter this reſolution.

Their Majeſties about this time paid her much attention. Her talent in reciting dramatic works had been highly ſpoken of, which reaching the ears of the royal family, ſhe was frequently

frequently invited to Buckingham-houſe, and Windſor, where ſhe and her brother often recited plays.

As ſome relaxation, on account of her health, had now become neceſſary, ſhe quitted Drury-lane for a time, and performed at Weymouth, Plymouth, Liverpool, &c. with additional reputation. She alſo viſited ſeveral of her noble patrons, among whom Lord and Lady Harcourt ſtood conſpicuous. By means of theſe friends and accompliſhments ſhe has acquired a very good fortune, has a conſiderable ſhare or at leaſt a mortgage on Drury-lane theatre, and is bleſſed with a family that promiſes to be her comfort in old age.

We lament exceedingly, the recent death of her beautiful and accompliſhed daughter, and moſt ſincerely condole with a mother, whoſe exquiſite ſenſibility muſt have been agonized by ſo unhappy an event.

Nature has beſtowed on Mrs. Siddons a majeſtic perſon, a ſtriking countenance, and a fine voice; the judgment with which ſhe modulates the laſt of theſe, has never been excelled, perhaps never rivalled, by any other actreſs. The flexibility of her features, the expreſſion of her eyes, and the grace of her deportment, have ſeldom been equalled. She poſſeſſes the whole art of ſpeaking, for which the late Mrs. Yates was ſo juſtly famed, combined with the impaſſioned ſtyle of playing, of Mrs. Crawford, while in her meridian.

She has lately had an engagement with the Drury-lane managers, at a certain ſum for each night's performance, by which means ſhe avoids injuring her health by the conſtant repetition of theatrical exertions.

Mrs. Siddons reſides in Great Marlborough-ſtreet, and is upwards of fifty years of age. In private life ſhe is regarded as an economiſt, but as a truly amiable and exemplary wife and mother.

P.

DOCTOR

DOCTOR JOHN DOUGLAS,

BISHOP OF SALISBURY.

THIS prelate, who is a native of Scotland, has been long celebrated both in the clerical and literary world. He was educated at Chriſt-church, Oxford, of which college he was a ſtudent in 1738, and having taken orders, ſettled in Shropſhire. During his reſidence there, he publiſhed "Milton vindicated" (1748); a work in which, with uncommon acuteneſs, he detected the groſs forgery of Lauder, who with equal impudence and ingenuity had repreſented Milton as a plagiariſt.

He next entered the liſts with George Pſalmanazar, and Archibald Bower; the former of whom pretended to be a native of Formoſa, and the latter a commiſſioner of the holy inquiſition at Macerata.

Theſe ſucceſſive exertions of critical abilities introduced him to public notice, and procured him many friends; he afterwards publiſhed, in the year 1754, "Criterion," an anſwer to David Hume on miracles. His firſt work had recommended him to the learned, the laſt to the religious world; and about the year 1760, he began to reap the benefit they entitled him to, for he was then appointed one of the King's chaplains; in 1762 he was nominated one of the Canons of Windſor, and ſoon after preſented to the united livings of St. Auſtin and St. Faith, in London.

Among the many friends Dr. Douglas had made, was the late Lord Bath, who bequeathed him his library. But General Pulteney being unwilling to part with it out of the family, paid him the full value, and on his death, about three years after, left it once more to him. From Windſor,

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our divine was, in 1776, removed to be a canon of St. Paul's; and after poſſeſſing that canonry about twelve years, he was, in 1788, advanced to the Deanry of Windſor.

In theſe ſituations, the Doctor not only enlarged his circle of friends among the great, but was introduced to the notice of the king and queen, and acquired a conſiderable degree of royal favour. He was next raiſed to the epiſcopal bench, on the death of Dr. Law, Biſhop of Carliſle, and on the tranſlation of Dr. Barrington to Durham, in 1791, he was tranſlated to Saliſbury; by the poſſeſſion of which ſee, he has become chancellor of the order of the garter.

The epiſcopal character of Dr. Douglas is a ſubject of univerſal admiration, while benevolence and candour diſtinguiſh him in private life. Regular in the diſcharge of the duties of his high ſtation, he commands the love and reſpect of his dioceſe. In ſhort, as a dignified clergyman and ſcholar, a gentleman and a chriſtian, he is equally reſpected and admired.

When the ſhips ſent out on diſcovery under Captain Cook returned, Dr. Douglas was appointed to inſpect and arrange the journals; and the admirable introduction prefixed to that work is the offspring of his pen.

The doctor was a member of the Literary Club in Eſſex-ſtreet, inſtituted by Dr. Johnſon, Murphy, &c.

Z.

SIR

SIR JOHN SCOTT,

HIS MAJESTY'S ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

IT has been remarked, of late years, that in conſequence of the mode now in vogue, of beſtowing the favours of government, the bar is the only line in which a man can riſe by merit alone to the firſt honours of his profeſſion; but we believe even here ſome grains of allowance muſt be made; for the ſubject of our preſent enquiries, although poſſeſſed of great merit, would never have reached the ſtation he now occupies, without powerful patronage.

Sir John Scott is the ſon of a * tradeſman of no great opulence, at Newcaſtle upon Tyne. His elder brother, Sir William Scott, who was bred to the practice of the civil law, was formerly advocate-general, and is now judge of the Admiralty court. John was admitted a ſtudent of the Middle Temple, in Hilary term, 1772, and after paying the moſt aſſiduous attention to his ſtudies, was called to the bar at the uſual period.

Our young barriſter was troubled with what few gentlemen of the profeſſion have occaſion to complain of—a certain timidity of character, which made him ſhun the courts as a pleader for a conſiderable time, and employ himſelf chiefly in the buſineſs of a draughtſman in chancery, in which he was allowed to be able, and had great practice. He found, however, that this branch of the profeſſion was equally injurious to his health and advancement in life, and he at length determined to rouſe himſelf from that ſpecies of torpor to which he was naturally inclined.

* His father was what is there termed a *coal-fitter*.

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He accordingly betook himſelf to a more public and active line; and in a ſhort time evinced that he was apt and ingenious at reply.

Sir John was not long at the bar, before he attracted the notice of the late chancellor*; and as he always avoided oppoſition to the bench, received great countenance in his practice: it is even ſaid that the chancellor one day took him aſide after the buſineſs of the court was over, complimented him on his merit, and offered him the place of one of the maſters in chancery then vacant. This he politely declined; and he had the ſatisfaction to find that he had acted right, as his buſineſs continued to encreaſe rapidly.

About the year 1783, he obtained a patent of precedency, which entitled him to all the honours of a king's counſel, and freed him from certain diſadvantages attendant on that ſtation. He had juſt before been introduced into parliament through the intereſt of his friend, Lord Thurlow, with Lord Weymouth, who ſeated him for the Borough of Weobly. Mr. Scott was ſaid to have ſtruck a bargain with his right honourable patron, when he accepted this ſituation, which, if true, was much to his honour; viz. "that he "ſhould be at liberty to vote as he pleaſed." He might, however, have ſpared himſelf this trouble, for as ſoon as he got into the houſe, he acted decidedly with the Pitt party, and in the debate on Mr. Fox's India bill, placed himſelf in oppoſition to the late Mr. Lee, then attorney-general. Although in this attempt he did not acquire much importance as a parliamentary ſpeaker, yet he gained every thing he could wiſh for, by his connexion with thoſe whoſe cauſe he eſpouſed; for they took the firſt opportunity to promote him. Accordingly, in 1788, he was advanced to be Solicitor-general, in the room of Sir Archibald, then Mr. Macdonald, promoted to be attorney-general. When theſe two were preſented to the king, the attorney-general received the

* Lord Thurlow.

honour

honourof knighthood. The officer in waiting was then ordered to bring up Mr. Scott, when the latter begged leave to decline; but the king, *who knows the real value* of theſe things better than any other man, perhaps, in his dominions, replied, " pho, pho, nonſenſe! I will ſerve them both alike." Thus Mr. Scott gained honours unaſked, and even againſt his will.

In the buſineſs of the regency, Sir John was ſaid to be the man whoſe legal talents formed the baſis of the miniſter's plan of conduct

In 1793 he was made Attorney-general; and while in this poſt, he has proſecuted, perhaps, more men for libels, than ever fell to the lot of any two of his predeceſſors!

The part he took during the ſtate trials at the Old Bailey will never be forgotten; for after a wonderful diſplay of candour, he laboured through a ſpeech of nine hours to convict a man of a crime of which the length of his own oration alone was a ſtrong preſumptive proof of innocence.

He now ſtands as the moſt likely candidate for the ſeals; and ſhould any thing happen to remove the preſent Chancellor, during Mr. Pitt's continuance in power, he will, in all probability, ſucceed him.

DUKE

DUKE OF NORFOLK.

CHARLES HOWARD, Esq. of Grayſtock, in Cumberland, a collateral branch of that noble family, ſucceeded to the title of Norfolk in 1777, on the death of Edward, the ninth duke; and his ſon, the preſent duke, then aſſumed the appellation of Earl of Surrey.

In 1767, while Mr. Howard, he married a Miſs Mary Ann Coppinger, of Ballyvolane, in Ireland, who died ſoon after, in childbed, and, in 1771, he received the hand of Miſs Frances Scudamore, daughter of C. F. Scudamore, Eſq. of Home Lacey, in Herefordſhire, by the repudiated Ducheſs of Beaufort, with whom he got a large fortune; but by neither of them has he any children. This laſt lady, indeed, has been in a very melancholy ſtate of mind for many years, and lives retired at one of his Grace's ſeats. The Ducheſs is celebrated for the ſmart repulſe ſhe is ſaid to have given the amorous Duke of Queenſbury a few years ſince.

Some time previouſly to his acquiſition of the title, Lord Surrey had renounced the errors of the Romiſh church, in which he had been bred, and was of courſe eligible to ſit in either houſe of parliament. Accordingly, at the general election in 1780, he was returned for Carliſle, in oppoſition to the intereſt of Sir James Lowther. As ſoon as his Lordſhip took his ſeat, he joined the party of oppoſition, and with it laboured to ſtem the torrent ariſing from the encreaſing influence of the crown, until the complete defeat of the miniſter, in 1782. It is well known that the North adminiſtration having clung faſt to their places, Lord Surrey gave notice in the Houſe of Commons of a motion which would

would effectually remove them; but the premier anticipated the disgrace, by declaring "that he was no longer minister."

In the change which soon after took place, his lordship was appointed Lord-lieutenant of the west riding of the county of York, and under the coalition ministry he was nominated a lord of the treasury.

When the Shelburne ministry came in, Lord Surrey opposed them, and joined the coalition; and when that party was driven from power, he still espoused their cause.

He now became a member of the society for constitutional information, took an active part in the business of parliamentary reform, and attended public meetings when that question was brought forward; on this account he has been charged with inconsistency, as he is known to be as deeply concerned in the *traffic in boroughs* as any nobleman of this age; but he has always solemnly assured his friends, that he is ready to sacrifice every species of influence of that kind, and support a meliorated system, which he holds to be essentially necessary for the preservation of the constitution.

On the death of his father he succeeded to his title and seat in the House of Lords, and there, as before, has uniformly supported the popular cause.

His friendship for Mr. Fox has ever been steady and invariable, and to this alone may be attributed his late dismission. At a late annual meeting, to commemorate the return of his friend for the city of Westminster, the Duke is said to have given the old whig toast of "Our Sovereign, the "Majesty of the People." In the memory of some of the youngest men now living, this has been repeatedly drank without offence; and why any exception should at present be

be taken at it, remains to be explained. The fact, however, is, that the Duke of Norfolk was diſmiſſed from his lord lieutenancy, and from the command of a regiment which he had trained with the utmoſt care, while he had alſo generouſly reſigned the emoluments derived from it, to increaſe the comforts of his favourite *corps*.

Report has whiſpered that his grace was greatly affected by theſe marks of royal diſpleaſure; but he ſurely could not be hurt by the loſs of nominal influence or diſtinction, although, it may readily be ſuppoſed, that to be torn from a ſet of men with whom he had lived in the habits of friendſhip for many years, would undoubtedly give him pain. But, if any thing could tend to produce additional chagrin, it muſt be to ſee a man with whom he had been in the habits of acting with cordiality for ſo many years, pluming himſelf in his ſpoils, and ſtooping to a miniſter whoſe conduct he had reprobated.

The Duke, as a *bon vivant*, is ſurrounded by thoſe who are capable of keeping "the table in a roar," and his hoſpitalities at Home-Lacey are in the firſt ſtyle of magnificence.

As an orator, he poſſeſſes an eaſy delivery, and evinces a maſculine underſtanding; but he never attempts any of thoſe rhetorical flouriſhes which captivate the ear, without laying hold of the underſtanding.

His grace has been known to perform many generous actions. He kept the place of ſecretary to the Earl Marſhal, vacant for a conſiderable time after the death of poor Brooks, until, as he ſaid, he could find ſome one worthy to fill it, although earneſtly ſolicited by many for the appointment. Mr. Dallaway having publiſhed his ingenious book on the ſcience of heraldry, the Duke directly beſtowed the office on him, unaſked.

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His father had about him when he died a great number of perſons of the catholic perſuaſion, who, on the loſs of their patron, concluded they would be diſmiſſed by his proteſtant ſucceſſor; but he generouſly directed that their ſtipends and allowances ſhould be paid them, as in the lifetime of his predeceſſor.

JOSEPH

JOSEPH TOWERS, LL. D.

THIS gentleman has diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the annals of patriotiſm, in the republic of letters, and in the pulpit of the diſſenters: he was not, however, intended for a divine; Dr. Towers, like his great precurſor and friend, Dr. Franklin, having been originally bred a printer.

At a very early period of his life, from a ſincere conviction, obtained by *reading*—that great bane of all tyranny, civil and eccleſiaſtical!—he became firmly attached to the principles of liberty, both in reſpect to church and ſtate; and no man has been more zealous in behalf of the freedom of his country, and of mankind. This favourite idea has, indeed, been warmly cheriſhed by the ſectaries in general, and they muſt be allowed to have fanned the ſacred flame, and kept it alive in the nation, during the moſt alarming and critical periods.

After his call to the miniſtry, Dr. T. was choſen paſtor of the congregation of proteſtant diſſenters at Highgate; this occurred in 1774, and in 1778 he was nominated morning-preacher to the diſſenters at Newington-green. In the latter of theſe offices he ſucceeded the worthy, pious, and amiable Dr. Price, who had been appointed to the congregation at Hackney. He continued, however, to officiate at Newington-green, in the afternoon, for ſome years; and his colleague and himſelf ſeemed perfectly agreed relative to the leading points in politics and religion.

On the 4th of November, 1788, being the completion of a century from the Revolution, that event was celebrated with great ſolemnity; and the doctor, at the requeſt of a committee, delivered what may be termed a *civic ſermon* on the occaſion, which was liſtened to with great attention, and printed afterwards at the requeſt of the ſtewards.

While

While the Society for Conſtitutional Information flouriſhed, the name of Dr. Joſeph Towers ſtood conſpicuous among the moſt active of its members. He had been ballotted for in 1782, and continued to act with it until 1794, when the books and papers were ſeized by order of government, and the ſecretaay taken into cuſtody. On the 13th of June, of the ſame year, the doctor received an order to attend the Privy Council on the day following, which he accordingly obeyed; and was examined relative to the proceedings of a club which boaſted of the Duke of Norfolk, the Duke of Richmond, the Earls of Effingham, and Derby, Sir William Jones, Mr. Sheridan, Drs. Price, Kippis, John Jebb, Mr. Erſkine, &c. &c. among its aſſociates. On this occaſion, Dr. T. although viſibly depreſſed by the yellow-jaundice, evinced great firmneſs, and was diſmiſſed without being obliged to give bail, at the voluntary interceſſion of a dignified clergyman then ſitting as a member of the board, and who is ſuppoſed to have been the preſent Archbiſhop of Canterbury.

On the eſtabliſhment of the ſociety called "The Friends of the People," he was alſo voted a member.*

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* This ſociety was founded in the year 1792, under the name of "The Society of the Friends of the People, aſſociated for the purpoſe of obtaining a Parliamentary Reform."

This inſtitution is ſuppoſed to have excited conſiderable alarm in the adminiſtration; for, in the advertiſement notifying its exiſtence, a liſt was publiſhed of the firſt hundred aſſociators, among which were no leſs than forty members of Parliament, viz. the Earl of Lauderdale, Mr. Grey, Mr. Whitbread, Mr. Francis, Mr. Tierney, Mr. Erſkine, Mr. Sheridan, &c. &c.

This ſociety publiſhed a very accurate account of the ſtate of the repreſentation of England and Wales, the ſubſtance of which was afterwards formed into a petition, and preſented to the Houſe of Commons by Mr. Grey, on the 6th of May, 1793. In this petition it was aſſerted, with what truth we pretend not to determine, that eighty-four individuals did, by their own immediate authority, ſend one hundred and fifty-ſeven members to Parliament; and that, beſides theſe, one hundred and fifty more, making in

The life of this gentleman preſents few other memorable events, his literary labours excepted, which evince a ſeries of ſtudy and toil, ſeldom to be met with, even in thoſe who have dedicated their whole time to letters alone.

His principal works are the following :

1. In 1763, " A Review of the genuine Doctrines of Chriſtianity, &c. 8vo. with the name annexed.

2. In 1764, an anonymous " Enquiry into the Queſtion, Whether Juries are, or are not, Judges of Law as well as Fact ; with a particular reference to the Caſe of Libels." In this, Dr. Towers took the conſtitutional and affirmative ſide of the queſtion, not only in reſpect to libels, *but in all caſes whatever* ; this doctrine was ably ſupported by the late Lord Camden ſo far as concerns the former, and has alſo received the ſanction of the legiſlature in a bill, but too little attended to by either judges or juries.

3. He is the author of the firſt ſeven volumes of " Britiſh Biography ;" the firſt volume of which was publiſhed in 1786.

4. Between fifty and ſixty articles of the new edition of the Biogr. Britann. with the letter T. annexed.

5. In 1773, " An Examination into Sir J. Dalrymple's ſcandalous Attack on the memory of Sydney and Ruſſel."

6. In 1774, " A Letter to Dr. Johnſon, occaſioned by his recent political Publications." See Boſwell's life of Johnſon, vol. II. p. 200, 201, and 202.

7. In 1786, " An Eſſay on the Life and Writings of Dr. Johnſon."

8. In 1788, Memoirs of the Life and Reign of Frederick III. King of Pruſſia. (A ſecond edition has been ſince publiſhed.)

9. " Obſervations on Mr. Hume's Hiſtory of England."

And 10. An Oration delivered at the London Tavern, on the 4th of November, 1788, on occaſion of the commemoration of the Revolution, and the completion of a century from that great event :—

After remarking, that great and intereſting events, in-

 volving

in the whole three hundred and ſeven, were returned to that Houſe, not by the collective voice of thoſe whom they appeared to repreſent, but by the recommendation of ſeventy powerful individuals : ſo that the total number of patrons were one hundred and ſixty-four, who returned a decided majority. Theſe ſtatements, the ſociety obſerved in their petition, which was entered on the journals, they were ready to prove at the bar.

volving the happineſs of nations, have always been celebrated by mankind, he recurs to the important epoch, which placed William III. on the throne of the Stewarts:

" Of this nature, and of this tendency," ſays he, " is the event which we are this day aſſembled to commemorate. It is an event, which muſt ever be regarded as one of the moſt important recorded in the Britiſh annals. It is an event, which, at the period when it happened, juſtly excited the attention of ſurrounding nations. It is an event which will ever reflect honour upon our anceſtors, and the remembrance of which ſhould at all times, excite in their deſcendants an ardent zeal for the liberties of their country, and for the rights of human nature.

" That when all the efforts of regal tyranny were employed to overturn the liberties of England, they ſhould have been ſtill more fully eſtabliſhed at the REVOLUTION; that, in conſequence of that moſt important event, this country ſhould now have enjoyed an high degree of liberty, civil and religious, for an entire CENTURY;—is a juſt ſubject of national exultation, and of gratitude to the ſupreme Ruler of the Univerſe, from whoſe providential diſpenſations Great Britain has derived ſuch ſignal and ſuch invaluable bleſſings.

" It is among the higheſt honours of this country, that its inhabitants have been diſtinguiſhed, in almoſt every period of their hiſtory, by their firm, manly, and intrepid oppoſition to the encroachments of tyranny. On a variety of occaſions have our anceſtors nobly aſſerted their rights as men, and as citizens. In the ſenate, and in the field, they have repelled the attacks of tyrants, and maintained the honour, the dignity, and the liberties of their country. Many efforts have been made by the poſſeſſors of power to overturn theſe liberties; and, at the period previous to the Revolution, ſuch was the deſpotiſm of the meaſures adopted by the then reigning prince, that, if they had been tamely ſubmitted to by the people, the liberties of England would have had no longer an exiſtence."

It is thus that he mentions the wrongs that led to, and the patriots who diſtinguiſhed themſelves during that and a former period.

" To enter into a particular enumeration of the facts that preceded, and that attended the Revolution, would take up more time than would be ſuitable to the nature of ſuch a meeting as the

the preſent. I ſhall, therefore, here only obſerve, that when the illegal, the unconſtitutional, and the tyraunical adminiſtration of king James the Second, had rendered it neceſſary that all who had any attachment to the liberties of their country, or to the Proteſtant religion, ſhould make a firm and united ſtand againſt him; when he aſſumed a power of ſuſpending the laws, and of trampling on the conſtitution;—an illuſtrious band of patriots aroſe, who projected the REVOLUTION, and who adopted thoſe meaſures that at length brought it to a glorious completion. Among the principal promoters of the Revolution, we may particularly enumerate the earls of Devonſhire, Shrewſbury, and Danby, Lord Delamer (1), Lord Lumley, Admiral Herbert, Admiral Ruſſel, Henry Compton, Biſhop of London, and Henry Sydney, brother to the illuſtrious Algernon.

"Of characters of this kind our country has happily produced too many to be now diſtinctly enumerated: but it cannot be improper on this occaſion to mention the names of JOHN HAMPDEN, who oppoſed the unjuſt claims of regal tyranny in the famous caſe of Ship-money, and who nobly fell in the cauſe of his country in Chalgrove-field; of the virtuous, the amiable, the patriotic Lord RUSSEL; of the high-ſpirited and illuſtrious ALGERNON SYDNEY, whoſe admirable writings in the cauſe of freedom brought him to the ſcaffold; and of JOHN LOCKE, who has explained the true nature of civil government, and eſtabliſhed the rights of men on the moſt unqueſtionable principles. And among the diſtinguiſhed votaries of liberty in this country, our great and illuſtrious bard, the ſublime MILTON, ſhould not be forgotten. Even the ſplendour of his genius has not ſecured him from the moſt virulent attacks from the partizans and advocates of deſpotic power; and his zeal in ſupport of the great rights of mankind, ſhould, therefore, the more endear his memory to thoſe who are actuated by the ſame generous principles. He is juſtly entitled to our veneration for the ardour of his patriotiſm, as well as for that elevation of genius, which enabled him to reflect ſo much honour on his country by his immortal writings.

(1) Henry Booth, Lord Delamer, afterwards created Earl of Warrington, was a nobleman of amiable and irreproachable character, who is ſaid to have been one of the original projectors of the Revolution, and who was one of the firſt that appeared in arms in its ſupport, after the landing of the prince of Orange. But he was not perfectly ſatisfied with the manner in which ſome points were adjuſted at the Revolution.

The various publications of Dr. Towers, the boldneſs of his principles, his unabated zeal, and the ſide he had taken during the American conteſt, all tended to render him conſpicuous. The Doctor was admitted, in 1779, to the academical honours of the univerſity of Edinburgh, having received the degree of LL. D.

Several of Dr. Towers's tracts, &c. have been lately republiſhed in three vols, 8vo. with an admirable portrait of the author prefixed, an outline ſketch of which is given in our frontiſpiece.

He is a widower, and has a ſon, who is librarian of Dr. Williams's library, in Red Croſs-ſtreet.

He appears to have wiſhed for more retrenchments of the regal prerogative, and to have thought, that the liberty of the ſubject was not ſufficiently ſecured and aſcertained even under the new ſettlement. Mr. Granger ſays of him, in his Biographical Hiſtory of England, that "he was a man "of a generous and noble nature, which diſdained, upon any terms, to "ſubmit to ſervitude; and whoſe paſſions ſeemed to centre in the love of "civil and religious liberty." In Lord Delamer's "Advice to his Children," printed in his works, he ſays, "There never yet was any good man, who "had not an ardent zeal for his country."

LORD

LORD THURLOW.

OF all the *learned profeſſions*, as they are uſually called, that of the law is the moſt propitious, in this country at leaſt, to ſuch as poſſeſs talents, but are deſtitute of fortune. It affords a greater variety of opportunities for a young man to bring both his natural and acquired parts into a conſpicuous point of view, and conſequently to turn them to an advantageous account, than any other; and where ſterling abilities are united with induſtry and application, the chance of ſucceſs is highly flattering. In ſupport of this aſſertion, one might refer with great confidence to the catalogue of eminent perſons, who have filled the firſt legal departments of this kingdom for centuries paſt: the court calendar, and the peerage of the preſent day, will furniſh proofs ſtill more deciſive.

Edward, Lord Thurlow, was born, A. D. 1735, at Aſhfield, an obſcure village in the county of Suffolk, of which his father, the * reverend Thomas Thurlow (who died in 1762), was vicar, and whence he himſelf derives his barony. The family, like moſt others who bear the ſame name with a great man of former times, is ſaid to be deſcended from the celebrated Thurloe, the ſecretary of Oliver Cromwell; but if ſo, the heralds have omitted the circumſtance, for it is not mentioned in the peerage. †

The

* He married Elizabeth Smith, of Aſhfield, by whom he had iſſue,

1. The preſent Lord.

2. Thomas, who died Biſhop of Durham, May 27, 1791, aged 56; and,

3. John, a manufacturer at Norwich, who died March 4, 1782.

† A ſtory formerly circulated, if true, does great honour to his lordſhip, as it evinces a total abnegation of that ſilly vanity which ſometimes accompanies even great characters.

On

The ſubject of the preſent ſketch, after receiving a tolerable education from his father, who is ſaid, perhaps unjuſtly, to have attended to the learning *only* of his children, he was removed to Cambrige, where he was entered of Caius college, under the tuition of Dr. Smith, the preſent maſter. While there, his conduct was ſo irregular, and his ſpirit ſo haughty, as often to provoke academic cenſure. The frequency with which this was adminiſtered, had no other effect upon a mind naturally untractable, than to produce occaſions for ſtricter diſcipline. At length it was hinted to him pretty plainly, that a voluntary departure from Cambridge would be a prudent ſtep on his part, to prevent the higheſt puniſhment that an univerſity can inflict. He accordingly quitted his college without taking any degree, and repaired to the metropolis, where, after ſpending ſome conſiderable time, and exhauſting his finances, in a manner, we may ſuppoſe, not very different from that which had diſtinguiſhed him elſewhere, he engaged, at the entreaty of his friends, in the ſtudy of the law, and accordingly entered himſelf of the Inner Temple. How he conducted himſelf in this new ſituation is little known; but thoſe who remember him ſay, that there was nothing either in his application or his converſation, that warranted any expectation of his ſubſequent celebrity. Even long after his being called to the bar, he continued unknown and unnoticed, and conſequently unemployed. At length a fortunate circumſtance occurred, which gave him an opportunity of ſhewing to the world that he was poſſeſſed of powers of the firſt order.

On being aſked by a flatterer, while Lord High Chancellor, "if he was "not deſcended from the great ſecretary Thurloe?" he is ſaid to have replied as follows: "There were two of that name in my county, Sir; the one "Thurloe the ſtateſman, the other Thurlow the carrier.—I am deſcended "from the latter."

der. By ſome means or other, with which we are not acquainted,* he was employed to arrange and ſtate the caſe of Mr. Archibald Douglas, in the great legal conteſt with the Duke of Hamilton; and this taſk, which was a very complex and important one, he executed in a moſt maſterly manner.

About this time he alſo acquired the favour and patronage of Lord Weymouth; and from that moment the path to honours and emoluments lay ſmooth before him; for not long after he was made one of the king's counſel, then (in 1770) appointed Solicitor-general, and in a few months more he ſucceeded Sir William de Grey, as Attorney-general. It is very remarkable, however, that the univerſity of Cambridge never named him, according to uſual cuſtom, one of its ſtanding counſel. Whether this neglect proceeded from a recollection of his former conduct, or from his having left college without taking a degree, is uncertain. But though unmindful of him, it redounds to his honour, that on his advancement to the Chancellorſhip he remembered his old tutor, as well as his college aſſociates, and conferred favours upon them which they never could have expected, more eſpecially from one who had met with a treatment bordering on ſeverity at their hands. Many anecdotes of his generoſity might be related; but one ſhall ſuffice.

While at college, he was often too licentious with his tongue, and entering once into a diſpute with an elective and temporary officer, he was aſked "whether he knew "that he was talking to the *dean?*—"Yes, Mr. *Dean,*" replied Mr. Thurlow; and never afterwards ſaw him without reiterating "*Mr. Dean! Mr. Dean!*" which ſet them

* He had ſignalized himſelf before this, in a cauſe, in which the late earl of Winchelſea and Mr. Luke Robinſon were concerned; and it is not at all unlikely, that it led to his being retained in the great Scotch conteſt, about to be mentioned.

them at variance. When he became Attorney-general, they met by accident; and he addreſſed his old friend, *unwittingly*, "How do you do, Mr. *Dean?*" which ſo hurt the old *cantab*, that he left the room without making him any reply. On his obtaining the office of Lord Chancellor, he took an opportunity of meeting once more with his quondam acquaintance, and again addreſſed him with "How do you "do, Mr. *Dean?*" "My Lord," replied the other ſullenly, "I am not now a dean, and therefore do not deſerve the "title." "But you are a dean," ſaid his lordſhip; "and "to ſatisfy you that it is ſo, read this paper, by which "you will find that you are Dean of ——: and I am ſo "convinced that you will do honour to the appointment, "that I am ſorry any part of my conduct ſhould have given "offence to ſo good a man."

He was twice elected member of parliament (if his *nomination* may be ſo termed) for the borough of Tamworth, in Staffordſhire; and during the time he ſat in the Houſe of Commons he was greatly reſpected by both ſides for the candour, integrity, and talents, which he uniformly diſplayed. There he became a firm and undaunted ſupporter of the meaſures of the exiſting adminiſtration, and certainly no man was ever called upon to defend a more unpopular one. Lord North found his eloquence, promptitude, and reſolution, of ſuch vaſt ſervice to him againſt his numerous and powerful adverſaries, that in return he gave him the great ſeal, in June, 1778; at which time he was created a peer.

On entering upon this high office he ſhewed a firmneſs, and an integrity, rarely equalled. It had been uſual with former chancellors to make conſiderable alterations, on their advancement, in the officers of their court, with a view to ſerve their dependants, or oblige their miniſterial friends: and in particular, the commiſſioners of bankrupts were commonly changed. On the preſent occaſion, however, hardly

any

any alterations were made; and only one perſon was diſmiſſed, which he owed to his own imprudence, in ſoliciting the influence of his lordſhip's miſtreſs.

The ſituation of the chancellor in the Houſe of Lords, as ſpeaker, is not only of great importance, but of peculiar delicacy, and requires much addreſs. The hereditary members of the conſtitution are generally fraught with lofty ſentiments, and feel but little inclination to bend to the authority of a man raiſed from among the herd of practitioners in the inferior courts. Although the powers veſted in the ſpeaker be very great, yet they had ſeldom been exerciſed over a debate in reſtraining the exuberances of the noble orators; the conſequence of which was, that they frequently wandered wide of the queſtion, beſides committing other irregularities inconſiſtent with the dignity of ſo auguſt an aſſembly. Lord Thurlow determined to exert himſelf in reforming theſe abuſes, and ſhewing that a chancellor ought to be looked up to with deference, inſtead of ſitting, as had been too often the caſe, a mere cypher. His interference in the debate, to preſerve order, and to confine the members immediately to the point, excited no ſmall ſurprize and diſſatisfaction; at laſt the Duke of Grafton, feeling himſelf hurt at a check which he had experienced, remonſtrated againſt it with great ſharpneſs. For this he received a correction on the inſtant, in terms that were pointedly ſevere, yet ſpiritedly decorous; and from that moment Lord T's character and authority roſe to the proper level in that houſe.

During the remainder of the North adminiſtration, he continued an uniform and able defender of the meaſures of government. Indeed, a ſtronger proof of the univerſal eſteem in which he was held by all parties could not be adduced, than in his retaining the ſeals at the expreſs requeſt of the new miniſtry. He never, however, cordially united with Lord Shelburne, when that nobleman was at the head of

of affairs, though he held the chancellorſhip during the whole of his ſhort-lived adminiſtration.

On the entrance of the coalition junto into power, his Lordſhip reſigned his ſtation with becoming dignity; but reſumed it again when that ſtrange monſter was driven out by the united voice of the people.

Few men in that poſt have gained ſuch a degree of popularity as Lord Thurlow; and it ought to be obſerved, that the times in which he has lived have been extremely critical, and that he has had to encounter many events of a very difficult nature.

The moſt remarkable period in his life, and that upon which his future biographer will have to dwell with the greateſt complacency, is the epoch of the king's illneſs. No ſituation could be more trying; and certainly no man ever conducted himſelf in a trying ſituation with greater fortitude or wiſdom. His integrity on that occaſion was, indeed, conſpicuous; and he had the rare ſatisfaction of receiving for his reward, the grateful acknowledgments of both prince and people at the ſame time. His ſpeeches on the Regency queſtion, will ever remain upon record as the moſt precious memorials of unſhaken rectitude; and that declaration which in a manner may be ſaid to have electrified the Houſe of Peers, "When I forſake my king in the hour of his diſ-"treſs, may my God forſake me!" ought to be engraven upon his monument.

After having acted with Mr. Pitt, in perfect uniſon, ever ſince that gentleman came into office, till the preſent eventful war, a marked difference of opinion in the cabinet at length rendered the reſignation of one or other of theſe ſtateſmen unavoidable. Accordingly Lord Thurlow delivered up the great ſeal, in a manner, and in terms that affected his royal maſter very forcibly. Doubtleſs his Majeſty could not but recollect, at that moment, the ſervice, which the ex-

chancellor

chancellor had rendered him in that awful ſeaſon when he was, as it were, ſhut out from ſociety, and oppreſſed with the moſt ſevere of human maladies!

From that time, Lord T. has contented himſelf with enjoying the *otium cum dignitate*, in his retirement at Dulwich. But though he has withdrawn himſelf from the preſent miniſtry, he has not petulantly joined the phalanx of oppoſition. His mind is ſuperior to party connexion, which, at the beſt, is but a mean kind of bondage. While in office, he preſerved an independent ſpirit, and was always ready to expreſs his diſſatisfaction at the meaſures of his colleagues in power; and now that he has no ſhare in the government, he is equally free in reproving or commending either miniſters or their opponents.

His great characteriſtics are ſteadineſs, uniformity, and inflexibility, which often proceed to a length that, in others, would be termed obſtinacy. No man can ſhake him from his purpoſe, when his opinion is once fixed. With this ſpirit of determination, is, however, united a powerful principle of integrity. In all the ſituations which he has filled, he has conducted himſelf in ſuch a manner that no enemy can find an occaſion to faſten any ſuſpicion upon him. Though a ſtranger to gentleneſs of voice or manner, he poſſeſſes a large and very liberal mind. In the diſpoſal of preferments, his chief regard ever was to merit; and he has been often known to reſiſt the influence of his miniſterial aſſociates, in order to bring in thoſe whom he ſuppoſed to be better qualified for the vacant offices.

As a public ſpeaker, he poſſeſſes great powers; and though devoid of the more winning graces which ſteal their way to the heart, he carries home conviction to it, by a ſelect arrangement of words, a dignity of utterance, a cloſe and logical mode of argument, and a ſingular expreſſiveneſs of countenance.

With

With ſuch qualifications, and ſuch virtues, not to poſſeſs ſome failings would be more than falls to the lot of humanity. Thoſe of his lordſhip ariſe entirely from a defect in his early education, and from a peculiar caſt of his mind. Juvenile habits and indiſcretions are rarely ſo altered in more advanced life, as not to leave ſome tincture of their influence, unleſs in very flexible diſpoſitions alone.

Lord Thurlow's character is replete with integrity and liberality; and therefore a few imperfections may the more reaſonably be excuſed. * Coarſe language, at times, is ſaid

* One of the moſt learned men of the preſent day, perhaps, dipped his pen in the *gall* of party prejudice, when he drew the following character of his lordſhip under the name of NOVIUS:

" Minas poſſumus contemnere vocémque fulmineam Thraſonici iſtius Oratoris τῆ τὰς ὀφρῦς κυανέας ἐπηρκότος, cujus vulticulum, uti Noviorum iſtius minoris, ferre poſſe ſe negat Quadruplatorum genus omne et Subſcriptorum. Quid enim? truculentus ſemper incedit, tetérque, et terribilis aſpectu. De ſupercilio autem iſto quid dicendum eſt? annon reipublicæ illud quaſi pignus quoddam videtur? annon ſenatus illo, tanquam Atlante cœlum, innititur?

" Ferunt profectò Novium in 'ſumma feritate eſſe verſutiſſimum, promtúmque ingenio ultra Barbarum.' Quod ſi demſeris illi aut ὀφοδρότητα quanta in Bruto fuit, aut πικρότητα verè Menippeam, aut προσώπῳ σκυθρότητα propriam et ſuam, facilè eidem juris nodos legúmque ænigmata ad ſolvendum permiſeris.

" Fervido quodam et petulanti genere dicendi utitur, eodèmque, nec valdè nitenti, nec planè horrido. Solutos irridentium cachinnos ita commovet, ut lepores ejus, ſcurriles et prorſús veteratorios diceres. Omnia loquitur verborum ſanè bonorum curſu quodam incitato, itémque voce, qua ne ſubſellia quidem ipſa deſiderant pleniorem et grandiorem. In adverſariis autem lacerandis ita cauſidicorum figuras jaculatur, ita callida et malitioſa juris interpretatione utitur, ita furere et bacchari ſolet, ut ſæpè mirere tam alias res agere optimates, ut ſit penè inſano inter diſertos locus.

" Fuit ei, perinde atque aliis, fortuna pro virtutibus. Didicit autem à Muciano, ſatis clarum eſſe apud timentem, quiſquis timeatur. Corpore ipſe ingens, animi immodicus, verbis magnificus, et ſpecie inanium magis quám ſapientia validus, ſtudia ad ſe Optimatium illexit, eámque adeptus eſt auctoritatem, quæ homini novo pro facundia eſſe poſſet. Scilicet, quæ bonis Titio, Seioque turpiſſima forent, Novium noſtrum maximè decent, ſiquidem è ſubſellis

ſaid to eſcape him; and ſome facetious barriſters have pretended to obſerve an oath *quivering* on his lips, while ſitting at Lincoln's Inn; but the unmannerly ſtranger has never been allowed to eſcape, though his unwilling retention was, doubtleſs, a painful emotion.

His lordſhip was never married, but he has ſeveral natural children.

Although he rents a houſe, and maintains a regular eſtabliſhment, in St. James's-ſquare, yet he never ſleeps in town; but retires inſtantly from the Houſe of Peers to his reſidence, near Dulwich, in Surrey.

è ſubſellis elapſus de Tribunali nunci pronuntiet, et ex Præcone aionum factus ſit inſtitor eloquentiæ ſenatoriæ. Quam igitur in civitate gratiam dicendi facultate Q. Varius conſecutus eſt, vaſtus homo atque fœdus, eandem Novius intelligit, illa ipſa facultate, quamcunque habet, ſe eſſe in Senatu conſecutum——

——"Ellum, *confidens*, *catus*:
Cùm faciem videas, videtur eſſe quantivis pretiî:
Triſtis ſeveritas ineſt in voltu, atque in verbis fides."

"Of that orator, who carries menace and terror in his brow, we think the eloquence Thraſonic, and deſpiſe its loudeſt thunders; whoſe aſpect, like the younger Novius, repels all underlings and petitioners," &c.

W.

THE

THE MARQUIS CORNWALLIS.

THE ſubject of this memoir has acted with ſucceſs in the character of a ſtateſman as well as a ſoldier. Like the Roman conſuls of old, he has received and diſpatched ambaſſadors; he has declared war, and granted peace. He fought for the preſervation of an empire in America; he retained and enlarged the Britiſh dominions in Aſia; and, in Europe, he has humbled the enemies of his country, and, by his energy and humane policy, has cruſhed a civil war in the bud.

Marquis Cornwallis, whoſe family is very ancient and honourable, was born December 31ſt, 1738, and ſeems to have been intended from his cradle for the army. He accordingly entered into the ſervice at a very early age, and we find him in 1758, when only twenty years old, and at a period when promotions were leſs rapid than at preſent, a Captain in Colonel Craufurd's light infantry, under the title of *Lord Broome*. Three years after this, he accompanied the Marquis of Granby to the continent, in the honourable and confidential capacity of one of his *Aids-de Camp*, and was of courſe attendant on the perſon of that gallant nobleman during the campaign. It was thus, in the fields of Germany, and under the moſt ſkilful and celebrated generals of the day, that Lord Broome acquired the rudiments of the art of war, and prepared himſelf to command others, by firſt learning to obey.

In 1761, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel of the twelfth regiment of foot; and we then find him diſcharging his civil as well as military duties, by ſitting as a repreſentative in Parliament for the Borough of Rye.

On

On the death of his father, who was the fifth peer of his family, in 1762, he, of courſe, vacated his ſeat in the Houſe of Commons, and appeared in the Houſe of Peers, under the title of Lord Cornwallis. In 1765, he was nominated one of the lords of the bed-chamber; and about the ſame time, was honoured with the appointment of *Aid-de-camp* to his preſent Majeſty, which was tantamount to a promotion in the army.

His ſpirit, however, was manly and independent. The favours of the crown did not make him forget the duties of the peerage; for he voted frequently againſt the miniſter, and ſometimes adopted what is called the *popular ſide* of the queſtion; in particular, when the memorable bill for ſecuring the legiſlative power of Great Britain over the American colonies was introduced into the upper houſe, Lord Cornwallis was one of the five who refuſed their conſent. This feeble, but reſpectable oppoſition, was headed by the venerable Earl Camden.* He alſo, on another remarkable occaſion, entered his proteſt againſt the queſtion to vote away privilege in matters of libel.

Luckily for the nation, his political did not interfere with his military career; for, in 1766, he was promoted to the command of the thirty-third regiment of foot, which he ſtill holds; and two years afterwards, married Miſs Jemima Tulikens Jones, daughter of James Jones, Eſq. whoſe ſingular ſucceſſion to a large fortune is related at large in the memoirs of the facetious Tate Wilkinſon. With this lady, who brought him two children (a ſon and a daughter), he enjoyed every felicity the connubial ſtate is capable of yielding, until he was called on to embark with his regiment for America.

* Lord Mansfield rallied his Lordſhip on this occaſion, on account of the youth of his aſſociates. "Poor Camden!" ſaid the Chief Juſtice, "Could "you only get four boys to ſupport you?"

America. On this occaſion, Lady Cornwallis, inconſolable at the idea of parting from him, after urging every plea that affection could ſuggeſt, applied to his uncle, then Archbiſhop of Canterbury, who, at her requeſt, procured the King's leave of abſence. But, notwithſtanding all the fondneſs of the huſband, duty prevailed over affection, and a nice ſenſe of honour urged her dearly-beloved lord to forſake her. The ſeparation was, however, too much for her weak nerves to bear; ſhe literally fell a prey to love, ſunk beneath the weight of her grief, and died; thus affording a moſt ſingular and romantic inſtance of conjugal affection!

Shortly after his arrival in America, we find his lordſhip ſerving under Sir William Howe, with the rank of Major-general, and acting as an able and indefatigable partiſan.—Having landed, in November, 1786, on the Jerſey ſhore, at the head of a detached corps, and found Fort Lee evacuated, he inſtantly penetrated into the country, and took poſſeſſion of the province. At the end of the campaign, he repaired to New York, with a view to embark for Great Britain; but having received advice of the diſaſtrous affair of Trentown, with the unpremeditated gallantry of a ſoldier, he deferred his voyage, and returned to the Jerſeys.

His Lordſhip's firſt enterprize in 1777, was an attempt to ſurpriſe an American poſt in his neighbourhood, in which he in part ſucceeded. Soon after this, he received orders from General Howe to abandon the Jerſeys, and in July he embarked with the Engliſh commander-in-chief in the expedition to the Cheſapeak.

This was not a conteſt in which large armies contended with each other, and in which the fate of a battle was to decide the lot of an empire. On the contrary, it was what the French term a *petite guerre*; a war of poſts and of ſkirmiſhes, of night marches and ſurpriſes, in which the climate and the ſword cut off thouſands, without putting a period to hoſtilities.

hoſtilities. It is in vain, therefore, to expect any very ſplendid achievements on ſo narrow a field of enterprize, when it is recollected that both armies would have ſcarcely conſtituted an advanced guard to a continental general, in the conflicts we have ſo recently witneſſed.

In ſeveral of the ſubſequent events, his lordſhip took a very active part. He commanded a conſiderable body of troops at the paſſage of the Brandy-wine, and after driving the enemy before him, entered and took poſſeſſion of Philadelphia, on the 24th of September, 1777. This was then conſidered a very important acquiſition; but it was ſoon diſcovered, that a country might be over-run without being ſubjugated, and that the poſſeſſion even of a province, does not always depend on ſecuring the capital.

From that period until 1779, when he embarked as a Lieutenant General with Sir Henry Clinton for the ſiege of Charleſtown, he ſeems to have had few opportunities of ſignalizing himſelf. On the ſurrender of the place, the command of South Carolina, with about 4000 troops, devolved upon him. On hearing this, General Gates, who had rendered himſelf ſo famous by the capture of Burgoyne and his army at Saratoga, took poſt near Camden, where he had collected about 3,600 men. Lord Cornwallis, inſtead of being daunted at this event, advanced with an inferior force; and on the morning of the 16th of October, a ſevere action took place, which was ſoon decided by the ſpirit of the Britiſh troops, who, after a ſmart fire, had recourſe to their bayonets; and the Americans having at length given way, were purſued nearly twenty miles. Seven pieces of cannon, the greater part of the baggage, and a thouſand priſoners, conſtituted the trophies of this day.

Early in 1781, General Arnold, who had now relinquiſhed both the cauſe and the ſervice of his native country,

had landed in the Chesapeak, where he did considerable mischief to his former associates. Lord Cornwallis, on hearing of this, determined to effect a junction with him, in order to overwhelm the Marquis La Fayette, since so much celebrated for his patriotism and sufferings during the French revolution, as commander-in-chief of the national guards.

Accordingly, having dispatched the gallant Colonel (now the patriot General) Tarleton with the cavalry, and Colonel Simcoe having been sent forward by Arnold, with the Queen's rangers, they took possession of the fords on the Nottoway and the Meherrin, the only rivers that intervened; and a junction accordingly took place between the two armies at Petersburgh, on the 20th of May. Immediately after this, the British army crossed James-river, at Westover, in pursuit of the French commander, who by this time had decamped from the neighbourhood of Richmond, and retired towards the back country with such celerity, that it was impossible to overtake him.

In the mean while, Sir Henry Clinton, who was apprehensive for the safety of New York, blamed Lord Cornwallis for penetrating so far; and a coolness from this moment seems to have taken place, which ended in a subsequent dispute and appeal to the public. No sooner were the dispatches received, however, than his lordship, knowing that obedience is one of the first duties of a soldier, abandoned Portsmouth, and concentrated his forces at York and Gloucester.

General Washington, on learning this, was desirous to strike a blow, that might possibly put a period to the war, and he had actually formed the daring project of capturing the brave Earl and all his forces. Rochambeau, the French commander, entered with great spirit into the scheme; and it unluckily proved but too successful. The combined armies

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of France and America accordingly paſſed through Philadelphia, and at length arrived, on the 28th of September, in ſight of York-town, at which the Britiſh troops ſtill remained poſted, in conſequence of diſpatches from the commander-in-chief, promiſing immediate relief. Lord Cornwallis on this withdrew his forces within the place, in full confidence of holding out, until the arrival of the promiſed ſuccours. The works thus abandoned by him, were occupied next day by the confederates, and the town regularly inveſted.

The Engliſh commander being now reduced to the alternative of either ſurrendering or attempting to eſcape, of courſe preferred the latter, and actually conceived the idea of croſſing the river, ſurpriſing Brigadier Choiſe, who was poſted on the other ſide, mounting his own infantry on the cavalry of the vanquiſhed, and thus effecting a retreat, which would have been infinitely more glorious than any victory.

In purſuance of this deſign, the light infantry, &c. were actually embarked in boats, and tranſported to the Glouceſter ſhores, in the courſe of the night; but a violent ſtorm having ariſen, the troops were driven much lower than was intended, and prevented, during a conſiderable time, from returning. In this diſtreſsful ſituation, and deſtitute even of ammunition, his lordſhip, unwilling to expoſe the remains of his gallant army to an aſſault, conſented, on the 17th of October, to capitulate; and the terms were, on the whole, not unfavourable.

Lord Cornwallis now returned to his native country, in order to repoſe himſelf after the fatigues of an unfortunate war, and enjoy all the happineſs that can poſſibly enſue from the ſweets of private friendſhip and public eſteem.

During the political conteſts that took place in 1782, and 1783, his lordſhip was for a time deprived of his place as Lieutenant of the Tower of London, which he had obtained ſeveral years before; but in the year 1784, it was reſtored to him. The calm that enſued after the peace, prevented his talents from being called into action for ſome years; but the affairs of India no ſooner began to aſſume a critical aſpect, than a man was looked for, who united in his own perſon the eſteem and confidence of the king, the miniſtry, and the people. Cornwallis was accordingly pitched upon, and immediately appointed to the high, honourable, and important ſituation of governor-general of Bengal.

No ſooner did he arrive there, than a war took place with Tippoo Sultaun, ſon of the famous Hyder, who, from humble beginnings, attained great power, acquired extenſive territories, and organized an immenſe army. The conduct of hoſtilities was at firſt intruſted to the Madras government; but little or no progreſs being made, the governor-general left Calcutta, and proceeded to the ſcene of action, where he arrived on the 12th of December, 1790. Having inſtantly aſſumed the command of the grand army, he proceeded to Vellore, and ſeemed to meditate an attack on the Myſore country, by the Baramahal Valley. The Sultaun, unacquainted with European tactics, was deceived by this motion; for the Engliſh ſoon after made a rapid march to the Muglu Paſs, through which they penetrated with little or no oppoſition.

Within a few miles of Bangalore, Tippoo's army at length diſplayed itſelf on the heights, in excellent order; and it ſoon appeared that his ſubjects, as if in love with deſpotiſm, were attached both to his perſon and government. Notwithſtanding this, Bangalore was immediately inveſted,

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and the *pettah*, or town, ſtormed and taken on the very next day. The reduction of the fort itſelf followed ſoon after.

The army having been joined by the Nizam, and a reinforcement of 5000 men, under Colonel Oldham, Lord Cornwallis determined to march againſt Seringapatam, the capital of Tippoo; and on the 13th of May, the army arrived within ſight of a place, the capture of which was expected to put a period to its toils, and reward all its labours. As the Sultaun had poſted thither a few days before, and occupied an advantageous camp, it was determined to carry it, if poſſible, by ſurpriſe; but this ſcheme proved abortive, from the vigilance of the enemy, who were, nevertheleſs, obliged to abandon their poſition.

It was impoſſible, however, at this period, to attempt the ſiege of ſo formidable a place as Seringapatam; for, in addition to a variety of other cauſes, there was an abſolute deficiency in the article of proviſions.

Having therefore ſent notice to General Abercrombie, who was marching to his aſſiſtance, to return, the Commander-in-chief deſtroyed his battering train, and retreated to Bangalore, being joined on his march thither by 30,000 Mahrattas.

Early, however, in the enſuing ſpring, the Britiſh army retraced its ſteps, and appeared once more before the metropolis of the Myſore, where it found Tippoo again ſtrongly entrenched. He was, however, attacked, and obliged, as before, to retreat. The Bombay army forming a junction ſoon after, regular approaches were made, redoubts were raiſed, and had it not been for ſome unlucky events, in reſpect to which his lordſhip was entirely blameleſs, the ſultaun, after being ſtripped of his capital, and bereaved of his power would have lain proſtrate at his feet.

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He, however, was obliged to accept of such terms as the English commander chose to dictate. He consented to cede part of his dominions, paid a large sum of money, undertook to furnish a still more considerable portion of treasure, within a limited period, &c. and entrusted two of his sons to the care of Lord Cornwallis, with whom they were to remain as hostages for the due performance of the treaty; and here it is but justice to a prince, whom we are accustomed to style a *barbarian*, to observe, that he fulfilled every article with the most scrupulous punctuality.

This important war being now ended, highly to the honour of the British arms, Lord Cornwallis returned to England, without being enriched by a post, in which avarice and rapacity could easily have realized a princely fortune—but he neither exacted a *jaghire* from the conquered sovereign, nor increased his own income, by venality or extortion.

Honours and employments, both so well earned, awaited him at home. He had before been invested with the insignia of the Garter; he was now (1792) created a Marquis, admitted a member of the Privy Council, and in addition to his other appointments, was nominated to the lucrative office of Master-general of the Ordnance.

Returning once more to the bosom of domestic happiness, the marquis seemed to promise to himself a life of ease and quiet in his native country. Such, however, was not his destiny. Ireland was disorganized, and the English power there shook to its very centre. It was even doubtful how long it would appertain to Great Britain; for it was menaced by insurrection within, and invasion from without. One of these events had actually taken place, and the other soon followed.

In this critical state of affairs, the eyes of the cabinet, and the nation, were once more turned towards him, and he was invested with the Viceregal powers, amidst the acclamations

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of both kingdoms. His adminiſtration has been ſhort; but it has been ſucceſsful. The inſurgents have been beaten, the diſaffected have been diſarmed, and an invading enemy has been taken captive. But his adminiſtration has been accompanied by merits, of another, and of a better kind; for military deſpotiſm has ceaſed, the ſyſtem of plunder and free quarters has been checked, and the torture, the rack, the whip, the ſcourge, and the halter, aboliſhed, as inſtruments not within the pale of legitimate government!

Dr.

Dr. JOSEPH PRIESTLEY, F.R.S. &c.

THE names of Galileo and of Prieſtley, excite a multitude of melancholy ideas!—Late poſterity will, however, do them juſtice: and although too late to be heard by the injured individuals, will rectify the miſtaken opinions of their contemporaries. It will be ſcarcely believed, indeed, that within a few years of the commencement of the 19th century, an illuſtrious philoſopher ſhould have been driven from his native country on account of his ſuppoſed political opinions; and that a brutal mob ſhould have been allowed, in the name of "Church and King," to have deſtroyed his dwelling, threatened his perſon, and rendered his life unſafe, in the land which gave him birth!

Dr. Joſeph Prieſtley was born March 13th, 1733, at Birſtell-field-head, near Leeds, in Yorkſhire. This part of the country, for a long ſeries of years, has been celebrated for its manufactures, and the Prieſtleys were one of the firſt families engaged in the broad-cloth trade. The Doctor, while only ſeven years of age, was taken into the houſe of an aunt, Mrs. Keighley, and was brought up by her huſband, who having no child of his own, adopted, and appears to have transferred that affection to him, which nature had intended for his own offspring.

Mr. Joſeph Keighley, after whom young Prieſtley was, moſt probably, named, was a remarkable character. He had been once, like St. Paul, a great perſecutor, and like him too became a convert. So violent was he againſt the diſſenters, that he was accuſtomed to find out their meetings, which, during the times of perſecution, began about eleven o'clock at night, and ended at two o'clock in the morning.

Happening

Happening once to discover their place of worship, he determined to secrete himself in a convenient place, in order to develope their heterodoxical tenets, expose their heresies, detect their plots, and deliver them over to the vengeance of the civil magistrate. The event, however, was far different from what might have been expected from a man seemingly led astray by blind prejudices; for after attending to their rites, instead of delivering the minister up to punishment, he took him home to his house, and supported him there, until liberty was opened to the sect.

Under this singular person, Joseph Priestley was brought up, and soon discovered an amazing attachment to learning. At the age of eleven, he surprised all who saw him, in consequence of his early proficiency. At that time, he read, or rather devoured, Bunyan's works; and it was then thought that he would become one of the first Calvinistical teachers of his day. But as the Priestleys were then in a flourishing state, and acquired a certain degree of opulence and consideration by trade, they were inclined to bring him up to business. He, however, was at last sent to the academy at Daventry, under the care of Dr. Ashworth, with an intention of being bred to the dissenting ministry, and his uncle dying, his aunt paid the expences of his education.

But while the zealots for Calvinism were looking forward with complacency to the time when their apostle was to commence his pious labours, a change took place, from conviction in his religious tenets; for at this period he became acquainted with some Arian and Baxterian ministers, whose arguments appeared to be stronger than those with whom he had heretofore been accustomed to associate.

When about twenty years of age, he settled, for a little time, with a congregation at Needham in Suffolk; but as the opinions of the teacher did not correspond with those of his flock, and he was too honest to conceal his sentiments, he

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was ſoon deſerted. In this ſituation, he accepted of an invitation to Namptwich in Cheſhire; although thoſe who wiſhed for his moral and ſpiritual aſſiſtance, were not able to promiſe him more than 30*l. per annum.* In order to eke out this ſcanty income, he acted as a ſchoolmaſter; and happening to attract the notice of men capable of appreciating his worth, he ſoon acquired celebrity.

At this time, there exiſted a college at Warrington, in which the ſons of many reſpectable diſſenters were brought up, and where alſo a great number of young men were qualified for the miniſtry. Thither Mr. Prieſtley was invited, and taught the *belles lettres* in that inſtitution, then in the zenith of its reputation.

As it was now a proper time for him to ſettle in life, and the means of maintaining a family preſented itſelf, he determined to marry; and was accordingly united to Miſs Wilkinſon, daughter of Mr. Wilkinſon, of Briſtol.

But the period had now arrived, however, when a great revolution was to take place in this once celebrated and flouriſhing ſeminary. The principal ſupporters of the academy, and thoſe who had been moſt liberal in their ſubſcriptions, being cut off in the courſe of nature, and not being ſucceeded by men equally warm in their zeal, a ſpeedy diſſolution was threatened.

At this time, the Doctor received an invitation to preſide over a flouriſhing and opulent congregation at Leeds, and was adviſed by his friends to remove thither.

After ſome years reſidence there, Lord Shelburne, now Marquis of Lanſdowne, engaged him to ſuperintend the education of his eldeſt ſon, Lord Wycomb, and he continued in that capacity during ſeven years. At the end of that period, he retired with an annuity of 150*l. per annum*: had he remained ten years, the ſum would have amounted to 250l. and fourteen years attendance, would have raiſed it to 300l. according to previous agreement.

Soon

Soon after this, he had an invitation to Birmingham, where he continued until his place of reſidence, and the meeting-houſe in which he officiated, were both burnt to the ground!

A little ſubſequent to this cataſtrophe, Dr. Prieſtley ſucceeded his old friend, Dr. Price, in the diſſenting meeting at Hackney; but his ſituation being rendered particularly unpleaſant, and even unſafe, on account of the times, he purchaſed an eſtate in America, and removed thither in 1794.

Since his arrival in America, he has experienced many diſtinguiſhed acts of favour and civility, but theſe have been counterbalanced by ſevere afflictions, for he has buried a wife and a ſon.

The publications of Dr. Prieſtley are ſo numerous, that a bare analyſis of them would fill a volume of itſelf. Hiſtory, Divinity, Education, Politics, Philoſophy, Metaphyſics—all theſe, at different times, have been the ſubjects of his lucubrations. But it is as an experimental philoſopher, that his name and his works will be handed down to poſterity. His chemical labours do honour to the nation that produced and exiled him. It is to him we are indebted for a knowledge of the element in which we exiſt; and, alas! at the very moment he had extended the empire of ſcience, and analyſed the properties of air, he was, in a manner, interdicted that of his native country, and forced to breathe the atmoſphere of another hemiſphere!

MISS HANNAH MORE.

THE controverſy reſpecting the intellectual talents of women, as compared with thoſe of men, is nearly brought to an iſſue, and greatly to the credit of the fair ſex. The preſent age has produced a moſt brilliant conſtellation of female worthies, who have not only diſplayed eminent powers in works of fancy, but have greatly diſtinguiſhed themſelves in the higher branches of literary compoſition. Our own country has the honour of enrolling among its literary ornaments many females, to whom the intereſts of poetry, morality, and ſciences, are greatly indebted. Among illuſtrious living ladies may, with juſtice, be mentioned the names of Barbauld, Robinſon, Cowley, Smith, Radcliffe, Piozzi, Seward, Lee, Hays, Inchbald, Cappe, Plumptre,* Trimmer, Yearſley, Williams, D'Arblay, Bennet, Linwood, Coſway, Kauffman, and Siddons. The female who is the ſubject of the preſent notice is well known to the literary world, by ſeveral elegant, ingenious and uſeful publications. A few particulars reſpecting her, therefore, will not only be amuſing to thoſe who have read her works, but will alſo be inſtructive to young perſons in the way of example.

Miſs Hannah More is the eldeſt of three maiden ſiſters, who were the daughters of a poor but very worthy peaſant at Hanham, a village near Briſtol.

Hannah, notwithſtanding the domeſtic drudgery which neceſſarily fell to her lot, improved her mind during the few leiſure hours ſhe could ſpare in reading. It may be well ſuppoſed that her ſtock of books was but ſmall. The firſt

* The able tranſlator of Kotzebue's "Natural Son," and Count of Burgundy, &c.

firſt which fell in her way was the *Pamela* of Richardſon, the humble ſource of an innumerable offspring: happy it would have been for the intereſts of virtue and literature, had the progeny been but as innocent as the parent.

The literary attainments, ſobriety, modeſty, and induſtry of *Hannah More*, were ſpoken of with general reſpect in her native place, and at length raiſed her, through the patronage of ſome reſpectable perſons there, to the uſeful and comparatively important ſtation of the village ſchool-miſtreſs. Her genius ſtruggled above all the obſtacles of that lowly condition, and ſhe acquired ſuch a degree of knowledge, as to enable her, with her ſiſters, to enlarge the ſchool, and to undertake the education of young perſons above the ſituation of thoſe to whoſe improvement their attention had hitherto been directed. So great, at length, was their reputation, that ſeveral ladies of fortune and diſcernment prevailed upon them to remove to Briſtol, about the year 1765, where they opened a boarding-ſchool in Park-ſtreet. This ſeminary, in a ſhort time, became the moſt reſpectable of its kind in the Weſt of England; and many females of rank received their education in it.

Among others, who had the advantage of profiting by the inſtruction of Miſs More and her ſiſters, was the celebrated Mrs. *Robinſon*, well known for her various elegant publications in proſe and verſe.

Miſs *More* had the good fortune of having for a next-door neighbour the Reverend Dr. *Stonehouſe*; who perceiving her merits, diſtinguiſhed her by his friendſhip, which he manifeſted by his inſtructions and his recommendation. Both of theſe were of the moſt eſſential ſervice to her intereſts in the line of her profeſſion; and alſo in the cultivation of her literary taſte. The doctor was a man of extenſive acquaintance, general knowledge, and elegant manners. He condeſcended to examine the occaſional effuſions of her

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pen, and alſo to correct them, and through his hands all her early efforts paſſed to the preſs. The firſt of theſe was entitled "The Search after Happineſs, a Poem," which was printed at Briſtol, under the doctor's eye; and on its publication in London was ſo favourably received, as to encourage the author to further exertions of her powers. She next publiſhed "Sir Eldred of the Bower, and the Bleeding Rock, a legendary Tale;" which ſtyle of writing was become faſhionable, through the ſucceſs of Dr. Goldſmith's ſweet ſtory of Edwin and Angelina.

Miſs *More* now turned her attention to dramatic poetry, and produced a tragedy entitled FATAL FALSEHOOD; which was tolerably well received; but not ſo much as her PERCY, a tragedy, which met with univerſal applauſe. She alſo wrote another tragedy, called the INFLEXIBLE CAPTIVE; which fell ſhort of the merit of her other dramatic pieces. The ſucceſs ſhe met with in this way, was owing, in a great meaſure, to the immediate and commanding patronage of Garrick, who entered warmly into her intereſts, through the recommendation of Dr. Stonehouſe, with whom he was very intimate.*

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* The doctor was one of the moſt correct and elegant preachers in the kingdom. When he entered into holy orders, he took occaſion to profit by his acquaintance with Garrick, to procure from him ſome valuable inſtructions in elocution. Being once engaged to read prayers, and to preach at a church in the city, he prevailed upon Garrick to go with him. After the ſervice, the Britiſh Roſcius aſked the doctor what particular buſineſs he had to do when the duty was over: "None," ſaid the other: "I thought "you had, (ſaid Garrick), on ſeeing you enter the reading-deſk in ſuch a "hurry."—"Nothing (added he) can be more indecent, than to ſee a "clergyman ſet about ſacred buſineſs as if he were a tradeſman, and to go "into church as if he wanted to get out of it as ſoon as poſſible."

He next aſked the doctor "What books he had in the deſk before him?"—"*Only* the Bible and Prayer-book."—"*Only* the Bible and Prayer-book," replied

She afterwards printed a ſmall volume of "Eſſays for Young Ladies," in which ſhe has recommended to them a variety of ingenious and excellent obſervations upon the moſt important ſubjects, expreſſed in elegant language. In 1782, ſhe publiſhed a work, perhaps the moſt popular of all her pieces, entitled "Sacred Dramas; to which is added, Senſibility, a poetical Epiſtle." In this volume, ſhe has dramatized, in a very natural and feeling manner, ſome of the moſt affecting and inſtructive narratives in the ſacred hiſtory. Many of theſe had been previouſly performed by her pupils; and had given ſo much ſatisfaction to thoſe who had ſeen the performances, or read the pieces, as to occaſion numerous ſolicitations that they might be printed. The voice of the public accorded with the ſentiments of private friendſhip, and theſe dramas have not only gone through ſeveral large editions, but, we believe, they have been, and are now frequently performed in reſpectable boarding-ſchools.

Her next production was in a different ſtyle of compoſition; it was entitled "Bas Bleu, with the Tale of Florio," 1785. This poem is ſomewhat in the manner of Fontaine, and hits off the prevailing follies with great ſmartneſs and taſte. The foundation of it was the *Blue Stocking* club, inſtituted by Mrs. Montague.

In 1788, appeared a ſmall volume, called "Thoughts on the Manners of the Great;" which attracted an uncommon degree of curioſity. As it was anonymous, ſome conjectured it to be the performance of one perſon, and ſome of another. The preſent Biſhop of London, Mr. Wilberforce, and many others, were reputed to be its authors; but at length it was diſcovered

replied the player; "why you toſſed them backwards and forwards, and "turned the leaves as careleſsly as if they were thoſe of a day-book and "ledger."

The doctor was wiſe enough to ſee the force of theſe obſervations, and in future he avoided the faults they were deſigned to reprove.

diſcovered to have iſſued from the pen of Miſs More. In this work ſhe attacked, with great ſpirit, the encreaſed licentiouſneſs of high life.

In the period between theſe two publications Miſs More and her ſiſters had reſigned their ſchool, in favour of Miſs Mills, and retired to a neat cottage, which they had purchaſed with the fruits of their joint induſtry, at the foot of the Mendip hills.

Here they inſtituted a Sunday-ſchool, which has greatly encreaſed, and been abundantly bleſſed under their pious and judicious management.

In 1791, our author publiſhed, without her name, a uſeful and popular little volume, entitled "An Eſtimate of the Religion of the Faſhionable World." This well-timed performance expoſes ſtrongly that lifeleſs profeſſion of Chriſtianity which is the general characteriſtic of the higher orders of ſociety. She has herein the honour of having preceded Mr. Wilberforce, and ſome other eminent perſons, in pleading for the neceſſity of a ſound religious faith, in order to an acceptable courſe of moral practice.

About this time a ſociety was formed, whoſe object was the inſtruction of the poor in morality and religion. The plan adopted was, to print ſtriking, amuſing, and inſtructive tracts, adapted to the capacities of common perſons, and coming eaſily within their ability to purchaſe. On this ground the Cheap Repoſitory was eſtabliſhed, by which many thouſands of moſt uſeful pieces have been circulated in the manufacturing towns and villages of this kingdom. In this benevolent deſign Miſs More was one of the firſt concerned, and towards the ſucceſs of it ſhe has been particularly aſſiſting by her excellent contributions. Among other uſeful tracts of her writing we ſhall only mention "*The Shepherd of Saliſbury Plain*," a little performance which

perſons

perſons of a refined taſte may read with pleaſure and profit. She alſo endeavoured to counteract the progreſs of thoſe political principles which the French Revolution had made ſo faſhionable; and printed ſome ſmall tracts, particularly one entitled "Village Politics," in the way of dialogue, which obtained a wide extent of circulation.

Miſs MORE has the credit of having drawn Mrs. Yearſley, the celebrated poetical milk-woman, from her obſcurity into public notice and favour. When ſhe had diſcovered this remarkable phenomenon, ſhe immediately began to exert her benevolence, and by her unwearied aſſiduity procured a liberal ſubſcription to the poems of this child of nature. She alſo drew up an intereſting account of the milk-woman in a letter to Mrs. Montague; which letter, in order to enlarge the ſubſcription, was publiſhed in the newſpapers and magazines of the day. By the attentions of Miſs More, a ſum was raiſed ſufficient to place the object of them in a ſituation more ſuitable to her genius. But we are ſorry to add, that a diſagreement almoſt immediately followed the publication of the poems in queſtion, between the author and her patroneſs; which is ſaid to have been occaſioned by the latter's taking the management of the ſubſcription-money into the hands of herſelf and ſome ſelect friends. The motive with which this was done is greatly to the credit of Miſs More and her friends, as it was no other than a deſire to provide permanently for Mrs. Yearſley and her young family. She, however, had a different opinion, and thought it was unjuſt in them to withhold from her the management of her own property. She went further, and endeavoured to repreſent her beſt friend as actuated by unworthier ſentiments, the worſt of which was, that of *envy*. Some attacks were, in conſequence, made upon Miſs More in different publications; but, conſcious of the purity of her

own views, ſhe paſſed over thoſe invidious attempts to prejudice the public mind againſt her in ſilence.

Another remarkable phenomenon in that neighbourhood alſo attracted Miſs More's curioſity and benevolence about that time. A ſtrange female, of elegant figure and manners, had been ſeen, for ſome conſiderable time, hovering about the fields near French-hay, and Hanham, of whom no particulars could be known. She thankfully received any humble food that was preſented to her by the peaſants; but always took up her night's lodging under a hay-ſtack. Various attempts were made to gain from her the place of her birth, but in vain. It was evident that ſhe was a foreigner, and ſtrange ſurmiſes were naturally formed, reſpecting her country and connexions. Miſs More's humanity was rouſed upon this intereſting occaſion; and chiefly by her means the fair ſtranger found a comfortable aſylum in the houſe of Mr. Henderſon, at the Fiſhponds, father of the celebrated, but eccentric, John Henderſon, of Pembroke college, Oxford.

Our benevolent author wrote an account of the "Maid of the Hay-ſtack," which was printed in moſt of the publications of the period.

Miſs More has long been honoured with the particular friendſhip of ſome of the moſt diſtinguiſhed perſonages in the kingdom. She ſpends ſome months in the year at the Duke of Beaufort's ſeat in Glouceſterſhire. She is alſo greatly eſteemed by the Biſhop of London, Mr. Wilberforce, and other perſons eminent for literature and piety.

In the village where ſhe reſides, with her ſiſters, a great and pleaſing reformation has been accompliſhed by their means. Every Sunday evening the children of the Sunday-ſchools, under their immediate patronage, are aſſembled in the ſchool-room, together with the farmers' ſervants, and ſuch

ſuch other grown perſons as chuſe to attend. In this little congregation prayers are offered up, a plain diſcourſe read, and hymns ſung. Pertinent queſtions are propoſed to the adult part of the auditory, on the plain truths of Chriſtianity; and the whole of this pleaſing ſervice is concluded with a cheerful hymn of praiſe to the God of all theſe mercies.

N. S.

MR. ALDERMAN BOYDELL,

In a volume containing the biography of the eminent artiſts of this country, claims a peculiar and pre-eminent diſtinction; for though the productions of his own *burin* cannot be claſſed with thoſe of men who have devoted their lives to the practical part of their profeſſion, he has rendered more real ſervice to the Engliſh ſchool than the whole maſs of our Engliſh nobility, and may very fairly be denominated the father of the arts in Great Britain.

He was born on the 19th of January, 1719, at Dorrington, in Shropſhire, of which place his grand-father was vicar.* His father, who was a land-ſurveyor, intended his ſon for his own profeſſion; and had it not been for one of thoſe little accidents which determine *the path that men are deſtined to walk*, he had waſted that life, which has been ſo honourable to himſelf, and beneficial to his country, in meaſuring and valuing the acres of Shropſhire ſquires, and the manors of Welſh baronets. Fortunately for himſelf, and the arts, a trifling incident gave a different direction to his mind, and led him to aim at the delineation of ſcenes more pictureſque than the ground-plans of houſes, boundaries of fields, or windings of obſcure roads.

While he was yet very young, chance threw in his way "Baddeley's Views of different Country Seats;" amongſt them was one of Hawarden Caſtle, Flintſhire, which being the ſeat of Sir John Glynn, by whom he was then employed in his profeſſional capacity, and in the pariſh of which his father was an inhabitant, naturally attracted his attention.

* He was afterwards vicar of Aſhbourne, and rector of Mapleton, both in Derbyſhire.

tion. An exact delineation of a building he had so often contemplated, afforded him pleasure, and excited an astonishment easier to conceive than describe. Considering it as an engraving, and naturally reflecting that from the same copper might be taken an almost indefinite number of impressions, he determined to quit the pen and take up the graver, as an instrument which would enable him to disseminate whatever work he could produce, in so much wider a circle. This resolution was no sooner made, than it was put in execution; for with that spirit and perseverance which he has manifested in every succeeding scene of his life, he, at twenty-one years of age, walked up to the metropolis, and at the age of TWENTY-ONE bound himself apprentice for seven years to Mr. Toms, the engraver of the print which had so forcibly attracted his attention.

These, and accidents equally trifling, sometimes attract men of strong minds into the path *that leads direct to fame*, and have been generally considered as proving that they were born with some peculiar genius for some peculiar study; though after all, genius is, perhaps, little more than what a great moralist has defined it—"*A mind with strong powers, accidentally directed to some particular object*; for it is not easy to conceive that a man who can run a given distance in a short time with his face to the east, could not do the same thing if he turned his face to the west." Be this as it may:—It is recorded of Cowley, that by reading Spenser's Faerie Queen, he became a poet. Pope says of himself, that while yet a boy he acquired his first taste for poesy by the perusal of Sandys's Ovid and Ogilby's Virgil; Sir Joshua Reynolds had the first fondness for his art excited by the perusal of Richardson's treatise on Painting; and, as we have before observed, Mr. Alderman Boydell was induced to learn the art of engraving by the coarse print of a coarse artist, representing a misshapen Gothic castle.

His

His conduct, during his apprenticeſhip, was eminently aſſiduous; eager to attain all poſſible knowledge of an art on which his mind was bent, and of every thing that would be uſeful to him, and impelled by an induſtry that ſeems inherent in his nature,* whenever he could, he attended the academy in St. Martin's-lane to perfect himſelf in drawing; his leiſure hours in the evening were devoted to the ſtudy of perſpective, and learning French without the aid of a maſter;—to improve himſelf in the pronunciation of the language he had thus acquired, he regularly attended at the French chapel. After very ſteadily purſuing his buſineſs for ſix years, finding himſelf a better artiſt than his teacher, he bought from Mr. Toms the laſt year of his apprenticeſhip, and became his own maſter; and the firſt uſe he made of his freedom was to return into his own country, where he married a very deſerving young perſon to whom he had an early attachment, and with whom he lived many years in great felicity. During his ſtay he made many drawings, in Derbyſhire and Wales,‡ which he afterwards engraved: but his firſt publication made its appearance in 1745, immediately after he was out of his time, and was entitled *the Bridge-book*; it conſiſted of ſix ſmall-ſized landſcapes, deſigned and engraved by himſelf, and ſold at a ſhilling. With this the public were pleaſed, and the ſale of it encouraged and enabled him to proceed with vigour in his future works. The paper and printing would now coſt more than the ſum the book was at that time ſold for.

The

* How ſtriking a contraſt does his conduct form to that of Chatelaine, who was at the ſame period employed by Mr. Toms, and in the ſame work-ſhop etched and engraved at one ſhilling an hour; but who, with all his taſte and talents, and he had much of both, was ſo diſſipated and idle, that at the expiration of the firſt half-hour he frequently demanded his ſixpence, and retired to a neighbouring ale-houſe to expend it.

‡ Among theſe were a view of the ſtraits in Dovedale, Matlock baths, Cromford, Beeſton caſtle, Cheſter caſtle, Conway caſtle, and Denbigh caſtle.

The arts were then at a very low ebb; inferior prints, from poor originals, were almoſt the only works which our Engliſh artiſts were *thought* capable of performing, nor were they (with the exception of the inimitable Hogarth, and two or three more,) in general, qualified for much better things. The few people who had a taſte for higher art, gratified themſelves by the purchaſe of Flemiſh and Italian pictures, or French prints; for which, even at that period, the empire was drained of very large ſums of money. This, to a young man, who felt that his own intereſt was hurt, and the nation diſhonoured, and who was conſcious that, with proper encouragement, better things might be done, muſt have been a mortifying proſpect. But though he might lament that the courſe of the ſtream ran ſo much againſt his own and his country's intereſt, his powers did not then enable him to turn the current; he, therefore, for the preſent, followed it, and deſigned and engraved many views of places in and about London; which were generally publiſhed at the low price of one ſhilling each. Beſides theſe, he copied many prints from Vandevelde, Brooking, Berghem, Oſtade, Caſtiglione, Salvator Roſa, &c.*

The facility with which he drew, etched, and managed the dry needle, enabled him to complete a great number of prints; and with a view of ſhewing the improvement of the art ſince the time of their publication, the alderman lately collected the whole into one port folio, and publiſhed it at five guineas.† In his introduction to this work, he fairly remarks:

"That

* Even at this period, he was ſo much alive to fame, that after having paſſed ſeveral months in copying an hiſtorical picture of Coriolanus, by Sebaſtian Concha, he ſo much diſliked his own engraving, that he cut the plate to pieces.

† The number of theſe prints, which were drawn and engraved at a time when the artiſt had much other buſineſs to attend to, diſplayed uncommon induſtry;

"That to the lovers of the fine arts it may be an object of some curiosity, as it was from the profits of these prints that the engraver of them was first enabled to hold out encouragement to young artists in this line, and thereby, he flatters himself, has somewhat contributed to bring the art of engraving in England to such a state of superiority. It may likewise be added, that *this is the first book that ever made a Lord Mayor of London.*

Few men have had the happiness of seeing, in a single life-time, such a rapid improvement; and the publisher will be gratified, if in the future history of the art, his very extensive undertakings shall be thought to have contributed to it. When the smallness of this work is compared with what has followed, he hopes it will impress all young artists with the truth of what he has already held out to them—that *industry, patience, and perseverance, united to talents, are certain to surmount all difficulties.*"

To return from the alderman's precepts, to his publications. Finding that the taste for prints encreased, and that sums larger and larger were annually drawn out of this country by French artists, he sought for an English engraver who could equal, if not excel them—and in Woollet he found one. The temple of Apollo from Claude, and two premium pictures by the Smiths of Chichester, were among the first that he engraved; but the Niobe, and the Phaeton, from Wilson, which were published by subscription at 5s. each, were the two great pillars on which Woollet's well-earned

industry; and the manner in which many of them are executed, evince talents, that practice, and his constitutional perseverance, would have rendered highly respectable. The man who could engrave such a print as the Medea and Jason, from Salvator Rosa—if he had not become the first in his profession—must have been *in the very first line.* The pen and ink drawing of Wrexham-church, several views in Derbyshire, &c. and a very correct and spirited copy from Hogarth's enraged musician, are now in the possession of Mrs. Nicol, of Pall-mall.

earned reputation was built. For the firſt of them, the alderman agreed to give the engraver fifty guineas;* and, when it was completed he paid him a hundred. The ſecond, the artiſt agreed to paint for fifty guineas, and the alderman paid him one hundred and twenty. *Proof prints* were not, at that time, conſidered as having any particular value; the few that were taken off to examine the progreſs of the plate, were delivered to ſuch ſubſcribers as wiſhed to have them, at the ſame price as the common impreſſions. Several of theſe have been ſince bought in public auctions, at ten pounds each. At Mr. Hilliard's ſale, one of them ſold for eleven guineas.

The number of fine—of inimitably fine prints which have been ſince that time engraved in this country, have, indiſputably, fixed the Engliſh ſchool above every other in Europe; and been a very important article in the commerce of this nation, by altering the balance immenſely in our favour.

The alderman has not confined himſelf to prints; he has alſo done more towards eſtabliſhing an Engliſh ſchool of hiſtorical painting than any other man: it is hardly neceſſary to ſay, we allude to the Shakſpeare gallery; an undertaking of a magnitude that was never before attempted, and conducted in a manner that muſt aſtoniſh every nation in Europe. With that enthuſiaſtic ardour which he feels for the promotion of the arts, he has preſented to the corporation of the city of London ſeveral very valuable pictures; which are placed in the council chamber, at Guildhall. Some of them are calculated to commemorate the actions of thoſe heroes who

* The immenſe difference between the prices paid to artiſts *now* and *then*, is almoſt incredible:—the Meſſrs. Boydells, in their advertiſement to the print of Major Pearſon, aſſert, that painting the picture, engraving the print, and every incidental expence, coſt them the immenſe ſum of five thouſand pounds.

who have done honour to the Britiſh name;* and others, to impreſs on the minds of the riſing generation the ſentiments of virtue, induſtry, and prudence, in ſeveral very well-imagined allegorical repreſentations, painted by Mr. Rigaud, Smirke, Weſtall, &c. Such is the ſlight memorial of his conduct, as an artiſt and protector of the arts. On his conduct as a citizen, it is not neceſſary for this page to record any eulogium. In the different offices of alderman, ſheriff, and firſt magiſtrate of the city of London, he has acted in a manner that will be remembered, and by many remembered gratefully;—for though inflexibly juſt, he was ever merciful; and when huſbands came before him, with complaints of their wives; maſters, of their ſervants or apprentices; fathers, of their children; he invariably, and often ſucceſsfully, tried to reconcile them to each other, and accommodate their differences.

To the duties of his office he has ever been peculiarly attentive; and very often, when it was not in his rotation, ſupplied the place of a brother alderman. This, conſidering the great attention neceſſary to his own buſineſs, is no ſlight trouble; but he has been enabled to do it from having generally arranged his buſineſs, ſo as to be beforehand with the duties of the occaſion. In this, his character is diametrically oppoſite to that of the late duke of Newcaſtle; of whom George II. once ſaid, that *he loſt an hour* every morning, and was *running after it* all the reſt of the day.

Of the alderman's ſimplicity of manners, integrity of mind, and private worth, much might be ſaid—but he *lives*—and may his life and health be prolonged, and continue to be honourable to himſelf and uſeful to his fellow-citizens!

* The half length of Lord Heathfield, is, perhaps, the fineſt portrait that Sir Joſhua Reynolds ever painted.

MR.

MR. GEORGE DYER.

THE ſubject of this memoir is deſcended from reputable parents; very early in life, he, himſelf, was ſent to Chriſt's hoſpital, a moſt excellent inſtitution, which has furniſhed the univerſities with admirable ſcholars, the church with many learned divines, the navy with able officers; and what, in a commercial nation like this, is no ſmall praiſe, the exchange, with enterpriſing and ſucceſsful merchants.

The youthful ſtudent diſcovered an aſtoniſhing attachment to books; and what, in ſuch an inſtitution, is no trifling diſtinction, actually got to the top of the ſchool ſooner than ever was known before his time.* This rare inſtance of aſſiduity, was accompanied by a paſſion, which but ſeldom attends on induſtry—a ſtrong propenſity for poetry. Pope, ſpeaking of himſelf, ſays:

> "As yet a child, nor yet a fool to fame,
> "I liſp'd in numbers, for the numbers came."

This ſeems to have been alſo the caſe of George Dyer, with only this difference, that while the one wooed the muſes in his vernacular tongue only, the other had likewiſe recourſe to a foreign idiom, and addreſſed the daughters of Jupiter and Mnemoſyne, in what is ſuppoſed to have been their native language. This claſſical taſte, particularly his ardent attachment to the Greek and Latin authors, at length procured him a patron in the perſon of Dr. Aſkew, a phyſician of great fortune, and conſiderable influence; diſtinguiſhed for his knowledge of Greek literature, and his valuable collection of

* It may not be amiſs here to obſerve, that his maſters were the Rev. Peter Wholley and Rev. James Penn, both known to the world, as literary men.

of books and MSS. in the ſame language. Pleaſed with the early proficiency, and congenial diſpoſition of the young man, he took an intereſt in his ſtudies, and purſuits; and preſaging that he would diſtinguiſh himſelf at ſome future period, promiſed that he ſhould ſee him amply provided for. But, alas! ſuch is the uncertainty of human life, that this worthy man was cut off ſoon after; and that, too, at a time, when his pupil only beheld the *bloſſoms*, and had not yet realized the *fruits* of expectation.

Notwithſtanding this ſevere loſs, he repaired to Cambridge; and, in conſequence of the connexion above alluded to, choſe Emanuel college, where his friend had been educated.

It may not be improper here to obſerve, that a conſiderable time previous to this epoch, Mr. Dyer acquired ſomewhat of a gloomy caſt of mind, and connected himſelf with many of the ſectaries. In conſequence of this, the claſſics were no longer ſuch favourites as before; *modern* religioniſts were recurred to, in preference to *heathen poets*; and even the ruling paſſion was ſuſpended: for the muſes and methodiſm do not aſſort well together!

During the greater part of his ſtay at Emanuel college, George led a retired life; frequenting only the company of ſome few men who happened to think like himſelf. His religious propenſities do not ſeem, however, to have altogether relaxed his ardour for ſtudy, as his application was ſtill conſpicuous; though his mind revolted at the trammels of collegiate diſcipline. This is not at all to be wondered at, when his *favourite purſuits* are recollected; for men of fervid imaginations are unwilling to ſubject themſelves to the rigors of the Alexandrian ſchool; and although Ptolemy, king of Egypt, diſdained not to become the pupil of Euclid, yet but few poets or religioniſts have evinced a turn for mathematics. Indeed, ſuch an averſion is not difficult to be accounted for: this ſublime ſcience is founded on *demonſtration*, and it

is

is not on ſuch a baſis, that either the fancy of the one, or the ſuperſtition of the other, can poſſibly be erected.

Mr. D's ſtudies were accordingly confined to Metaphyſics, Theology, and the Claſſics. Some time before he had taken his degree, his mind began to range abroad, and to ſpeculate freely, relative to ſyſtematic chriſtianity, and abſtract enquiries concerning firſt truths. If this propenſity be not unfortunate, it is, at leaſt, *unprofitable*; more eſpecially to a young man like the preſent, all of whoſe hopes in life originated either from his college or the church. The conſequence was, that after a fit of melancholy, the ſtern dictates of principle got the better of all intereſted views, and the theologian (for ſuch he had now become) determined to overſtep the threſhold of the church.

All golden dreams of preferment being thus blaſted in the very outſet, by the breath of conſcientious ſcruples, Mr. D. naturally turned his mind towards a ſituation, for which he ſeems to have been admirably adapted, both by the excellence of his education, and the placidneſs of his manners. Inſtructed himſelf, he, accordingly, determined to inſtruct others, and for ſome time aſſiſted the Rev. Dr. Grimwood, who then kept a very reſpectable academy at Dedham, in Eſſex, from which he has lately retired.

But he at length determined to return to Cambridge, where he made an open avowal of his diſſent from the eſtabliſhed church. While at the univerſity, he had become acquainted with a very extraordinary man, the Rev. Robert Robinſon, the apoſtle of the Baptiſts, with whom he for ſome time reſided; at this period, he preached occaſionally in his meeting-houſe, which almoſt faced Emanuel college; he alſo appeared frequently in the pulpits of others of the diſſenting clergy, both at Cambridge, Oxford, &c.

After ſignaliſing himſelf in this manner for ſome time, without any particular adherence to creeds or ſyſtems, Mr. D. at length determined to put a period to his miſſion.

Having

Having repaired to Cambridge, he was encouraged to undertake a work on the ſubſcription to the XXXIX articles of the church of England. Many of the diſſenters countenanced the plan; and there were not wanting ſeveral even within the walls of the univerſity who encouraged it, ſuch as the Rev. Mr. Tyrwhitt, who actually introduced a grace for the removal of what he conceived to be an intolerable burden, Mr. Hammond, fellow of Queen's, and Mr. Friend, fellow of Jeſus'.

Having now acquired a certain degree of reputation from his "Inquiry into the Nature of Subſcriptions," &c. he determined to try his fortune in London. His firſt occupation in the capital required great memory, and ſome talents; theſe he poſſeſſed, but it was attended with a degree of drudgery that proved intolerable. He accordingly ſoon diſcovered, that the office of reporter of the debates in the Houſe of Commons was unſuitable to his diſpoſition; he therefore quickly relinquiſhed it, and publiſhed a ſecond edition of his book on ſubſcription, greatly enlarged and improved. It is a miſcellaneous compoſition, and abounds with politics, theology, metaphyſics, criticiſms on the ſcriptural text, an examination of the fathers, &c. About the ſame time he printed a volume of poems.

Mr. D. now formed an extenſive acquaintance among men of letters, and engaged in the buſineſs of profeſſional criticiſm, being at that time employed in writing for the Reviews; he alſo aſſiſted gentlemen in acquiring, or regaining their knowledge of the claſſics.

It ſhould be obſerved here, that on his arrival in the metropolis he threw off his black coat, and aſſumed, in all reſpects a *ſecular appearance*, except in reſpect to his hair, which ſtill ſavoured of the eccleſiaſtical tonſure: he, however, has lived long enough in the world to ſee even this become faſhionable; for, after having been confined for

ſome

ſome centuries to the clergy, it has been recently adopted by the *beau monde*.

On his coming to town, he found party diſputes and opinions running very high; but although he himſelf had been an orator in the pulpit, and was accuſtomed at times to ſpeak *extempore*, yet he never delivered his ſentiments in any ſociety of the reformers; for he ſeems to have conſidered himſelf in his *political noviciate*, and to have preſerved the reſerve, ſo rigorouſly enjoined to the diſciples of the Samian ſage. But although ſilent himſelf, he may have been ſaid to have, literally, *opened the mouths of others*; as he wrote ſeveral ſongs for political clubs, calculated to promote feſtivity, and relax the brow of care from the fatigues and diſappointments of life.

Soon after the much-dreaded "Rights of Man," which had nearly effected a revolution in the political world, made its appearance, Mr. Dyer publiſhed the firſt edition of "The Complaints of the Poor People of England," with the motto of "fiat juſtitia." This muſt be confeſſed, even at that time, to have been a bold pamphlet; now it would be *intolerable*, and might ſubject publiſher, author, and, perhaps, printer, to the unfriendly greetings of his Majeſty's Attorney-general!

His next work was a treatiſe on the "Theory and Practice of Benevolence," intended as an appendix to the former; it contains ſome facts relative to the ſtate-priſoners.

After this followed his "Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Robert Robinſon, late Miniſter of the Diſſenting Congregation, in St. Andrew's Pariſh, Cambridge."

The next performance, of any ſize, by Mr. Dyer, appears to be "The Poet's Fate," produced in 1797, in which he traces in ſome very good lines, the ſufferings and diſtreſſes of the votaries of the muſes not only in modern, but alſo

——"In

——" In ancient times, long ere poor Butler ſigh'd,
" Or dinnerleſs the poliſh'd Lovelace died."

This is to be followed by " Poetic Sympathies."

He has publiſhed, beſides thoſe already enumerated, a Satirical Prologue to the celebrated Latin comedy of Ignoramus, in which he does not ſpare even *lawn ſleeves*, when a proper occaſion offers; and he has lately undertaken to print his poetical works, for which there is the promiſe of a handſome ſubſcription.

On the whole, George Dyer muſt be allowed to be a ſingular character. In order to furniſh his mind with facts, and gratify his eye with a pleaſing romantic ſcenery, he undertook, and actually accompliſhed, a tour, principally, if not wholly, *on foot*, through the moſt intereſting parts of England, Scotland, and Wales. No man in this country is more converſant with what may be termed the cradle and the grave of genius—the free-ſchools and the priſons of the iſland, moſt of which he has viſited in perſon. The preſent ſtate of his mind, in reſpect to religion, we are wholly unacquainted with; of all the ancient ſects, however, he ſeems moſt to reſemble the Peripatetics; who placed the *ſummum bonum*, " not in the pleaſures of paſſive ſenſation, but in the due exerciſe of the moral and intellectual faculties." Like them too, he has been accuſtomed to imbibe or retail inſtruction while he walked; and as this country has not, like Athens of old, a *Peripaton*, he frequently indulges in the ſtreet, or the public road.

There is another peculiarity obſervable in this gentleman: this conſiſts in the rejection of all titles from his works; for which, he ſays, he has hiſtory, philoſophy, and even Chriſtianity on his ſide. He alſo obſerves very ſhrewdly in one of his publications, " that thoſe artificial diſtinc-
" tions which originated in tyranny, and are perpetuated by
" cuſtom, lie at the bottom of many ſerious evils that exiſt
" in ſociety." A.

MR.

Mr. D'ISRAELI.

THIS gentleman is the only ſon of a reſpectable Italian merchant, who has long reſided in this country, and who is well known and eſteemed upon 'Change.

The early part of his youth was paſſed at the country reſidence of his father at Enfield, where he was ſent to a neighbouring ſchool. Here he learnt nothing but a little imperfect Latin; enough, however, to perceive that there were beauties in Virgil and Horace, which his pedagogue could not aſſiſt him in diſcerning and appreciating. After a reſidence of ſeveral years, the affectionate care of his parents aſſiſted him with a variety of maſters; but as he revolted againſt the diſcipline of elementary knowledge, it was reſolved that he ſhould be ſent to a private ſeminary in the city of Amſterdam. A year had ſcarcely paſſed under his new tutor, when he became the maſter of his maſter. If he had made no progreſs in claſſical literature, he had now, however, acquired a conſiderable knowledge of all the modern languages; he declaimed paſſages from the plays of the Spaniſh Calderon, the Luciad of the Portugueſe Camoens, the Jeruſalem of Taſſo, and particularly from the Henriade of Voltaire. He formed a paſſionate attachment to the higher claſs of French writers; he felt with all the energy of taſte, the rich imagination and ſeductive periods of Rouſſeau, the pointed and brilliant diction of Voltaire, and the conciſeneſs and delicacy of Monteſquieu.

On returning to his native country, he again retired to the country-houſe of his father. He now indulged more extenſively in an uninterrupted peruſal of authors of taſte.

He ſaw, with pleaſure, that he was neither adapted by nature, nor deſigned by his friends for a commercial life. Having made a tour through France and Italy, he returned with a valuable collection of books, particularly in the French language. He now had a confirmed taſte for the literature of that refined and volatile people; and, as he has obſerved, among them he not only found works of taſte, not elſewhere to be met with, but a vaſt reſource for the *Materia Literaria*, which exiſts in no other nation.

The earlieſt performance avowedly by Mr. D'Iſraeli is "A Poetical Epiſtle on the Abuſe of Satire," which was written, we underſtand, to gratify a certain man of letters, who was his neighbour, and who ſmarted under the ſcourge of Peter Pindar. As a firſt production, it exhibits his poetical talents to conſiderable advantage. This effuſion afterwards procured him the friendſhip of Dr. Wolcot, who has not only encouraged his poetical efforts, by unequivocal marks of his approbation, but conferred on him ſtill more uſeful ſervices, by many proofs of his friendſhip.

In 1790, Mr. D'Iſraeli made a more formal appearance in public, by addreſſing a poem, entitled "A Defence of Poetry," to the preſent laureat. The whole edition, excepting the few copies ſold, was burnt by the author; undeſervedly, it ſeems, for the Monthly Review of March, 1791, gives it the following character:—

"Mr. D'Iſraeli is among the few modern poets who have at-
"tained their favour (the muſes); they appear, from the teſti-
"mony before us, to have diſtinguiſhed him from the crowd, and
"to have allowed him a plenteous draught from their fountain of
"inſpiration. He is not without a knowledge of the requiſites of
"genuine poetry: his verſification is elegant, flowing, and har-
"monious; nor can we read this ſpecimen of his abilities, without
"perceiving that he has devoted his days and his nights to our im-
"mortal Pope."

In

In 1791, from theſe elevations of poetry, our author deſcended into the humble, but, with him, the agreeable and entertaining path of compilation. The firſt volume of his "Curioſities of Literature" was publiſhed anonymouſly; but the faſcination of public favour induced him to prefix his name to the ſecond. Theſe compilations ſoon became popular, and have been a ſource of numerous imitations. The volumes form a rich repoſitory of literary anecdote, and contain many original and well-written criticiſms. The rapid ſale of three large editions is the beſt proof of the public opinion.

As an original writer, he ſoon afterwards produced his "Diſſertation on Anecdotes," of which work the Critical Review for January, 1794, obſerves, that

"This is an eccentric, an ingenious, and philoſophical per-
"formance. The author, in a very maſterly way, vindicates the
"detailer of anecdotes from the charge of being a literary trifler,
"and his remarks are extremely ſenſible and entertaining; they
"are given in a lively ſtrain of reaſoning, and form a very judi-
"cious and curious ſpeculation."

This was followed by his "Eſſay on the Literary Character." The merits of this ingenious and original performance are too generally known to require any eulogium in this place.

In 1796, he produced a volume of Miſcellanies; it is not ſo original as his two former productions; but the diction, as uſual, is highly poliſhed, and the anecdotes are uncommon and curious.

His laſt performance was a philoſophical novel, in two volumes, under the title of "Vaurien." The chief object of this work was to ſatirize certain literary eccentricities and *monſtroſities* which have lately been obtruded upon the public. Some of the game was doubtleſs fair; a few characters were, however, too much overſtrained and carica-

tured to impreſs every reader with the juſtice of the attack. To exaggerate is the common failing of all ſatyriſts and caricaturiſts, and Mr. D'Iſraeli may not, perhaps, have exceeded the uſual licence.

He is at this time engaged upon a work, which, from a publiſhed ſpecimen,* promiſes conſiderably to exalt his reputation as a fine writer. It is to conſiſt of ſeveral romances, embelliſhed with original poetry.

Mr. D'Iſraeli is unmarried, and at this time about thirty years of age. His habits and connexions are as ſtrictly literary as thoſe of any reſident of the metropolis. Few perſons read and write more; ſcarcely any compoſe with equal rapidity; and, if cloſe application do not injure his health, the execution of ſome of his literary deſigns promiſe conſiderable future gratification to the public.

A. D.

* Vide Monthly Magazine, page 368, May, 1798.

THE

THE REV. DAVID WILLIAMS.

THE life of this gentleman is not barren of incident, for unlike that of moſt men of letters, his has been active and enterprizing; and very few of his movements have been unaccompanied with a correſpondent effect.

Mr. Williams was born in Wales. His father's circumſtances having become ſomewhat embarraſſed, in conſequence of ſome unſucceſsful ſpeculations in mines, he ſought for refuge from the reflections incident to the ſtate into which he had involved himſelf, and numerous family, by flying to the comforts of religion.

He at this time reſided in Glamorganſhire, where his ſon David was born; who, with his other children, were ſent to a neighbouring ſchool for education. Old Mr. Williams, by aſſociating with the methodiſts, had imbibed their principles and enthuſiaſm; and reſolved to train up his ſon to the church, probably intending him for a teacher among his ſect, and, no doubt, expecting him to become one of its ſaints!

David diſcovered lively and promiſing abilities; but ſuch as by no means qualified him for the ſtation allotted him, to which, indeed, he had an inſuperable repugnance. Yet a parent's dying injunction controlled his reſolution, and he went reluctantly through the preparatory forms of education, neceſſary to fit him for the diſſenting miniſtry.

His firſt appearance, in the character of a preacher, was at Froome, in Somerſetſhire; where, although he could not conceal the diſlike he entertained to the primneſs and preciſeneſs of the diſſenters; yet he ſoon made himſelf beloved and admired by his congregation. His reputation

for

for abilities, ſpread ſo rapidly, that at the age of twenty-two, he was invited to Exeter, as the ſucceſſor of two celebrated paſtors; and he underwent the requiſite formalities of ordination, in order to qualify him for the miniſtry in the Arian congregation there.

Soon after this, he embarked in a plan which originated at Liverpool, to introduce a Socinian liturgy among the diſſenters. A ſociety, for this purpoſe, had been founded at the Octagon chapel there, by the perſons who had conceived the deſign; and Mr. Williams ſoon perſuaded his congregation to adopt it; this affords no common inſtance of their attachment to him! In that city, he might have lived an eaſy and agreeable life; but he at length became diſguſted at ſome hypocritical ſchemes, diſcovered by him, and actually determined to quit the Weſt of England.

On his arrival in London, he received ſome diſtinguiſhed civilities from the diſſenters, and did duty at one of their congregations at Highgate, until he had prepared a plan of education which he meant to carry into practice.

While at Highgate, he preached a courſe of "Sermons "on Religious Hypocriſy," which he publiſhed in two volumes, 8vo. In 1770, he wrote a poignant "Letter to Mr. Garrick, on his conduct and talents as manager and performer;" this was followed by a work called "the Philoſopher," conſiſting of three polemical converſations; with dedications to Lord Mansfield, and the biſhop of Glouceſter.

When a reſpectable body of clergy, chiefly diſſenters, met at the Feathers tavern, to petition for relief in the ſubſcription to the thirty-nine articles, Mr. Williams was applied to, and at their ſolicitation, drew up ſome "Eſſays on public Worſhip, Patriotiſm, and Projects of Reformation;" which were printed and publiſhed, but are ſaid to contain ſentiments approximating more towards deiſm than

than his employers wiſhed. An appendix was added afterwards, which is peculiarly ſevere on the conduct of the diſſenters, with whom he afterwards broke off all connexion.

About the year 1773, he brought forward his plan of education, founded on the outline given by Commenius, when he was invited here, to reform the Engliſh ſchools; and whoſe deſign was fruſtrated by the civil wars. Mr. Williams diſtinguiſhed himſelf, on this occaſion, in ſuch a manner, that although he was a ſtranger in the neighbourhood, and his religious tenets lay under ſome imputation among the orthodox, yet he met with great encouragement. The *honorarium* of his pupils, was high; but, notwithſtanding this, their number was conſiderable. He was now in a fair way of making his fortune, and of introducing a more rational and eaſy mode of education; when, at this critical period, he loſt his wife, a loſs, which, notwithſtanding all his philoſophical fortitude, he was unable to ſupport: he accordingly fled both from his habitation and inſtitution, to take ſhelter in the remote part of Derbyſhire, where, for ſome time, he indulged his melancholy.

While at Chelſea, he publiſhed a Treatiſe on Education, in a duodecimo volume; which contains ſome uncommonly acute and judicious remarks on that ſubject, and diſcloſes his ſentiments with reſpect to revealed religion.

During his reſidence there, the celebrated Dr. Franklin, with whom he was intimate, took refuge in his houſe, from the ſtorm he apprehended would follow Mr. Wedderburne's unwarranted attack on him at the council-board; an event which is ſaid to have had more effect towards the criſis which ſoon followed, than can be eaſily imagined. And here, we are aſſured it was that the philoſopher of Penſylvania, concerted with his friend the plan of a deiſtical and philoſophical

philoſophical lecture. This ſcheme was, at length, carried into practice; for on his return to London, Mr. Williams opened a chapel in Margaret-ſtreet, Cavendiſh-ſquare, in which he was ſupported by ſeveral perſons of conſequence and fortune, &c. &c. The complexion of his diſcourſes, was, however, neither reliſhed by churchmen nor diſſenters; accordingly, although many went to hear him, few enrolled their names as members.

While officiating in this capacity, he publiſhed the Inauguration Sermon, two volumes of Lectures on the Univerſal Principles of Religion and Morality; and a Liturgy for the Chapel. Notwithſtanding a variety of obſtacles, he continued his labours, during a period of nearly four years; but as the ſubſcribers did not increaſe, he removed to a private room, where he delivered his opinions before thoſe who ſupported the inſtitution. His ſociety was, indeed, ſmall; but it was as reſpectable as any in England.

Mr. Williams's other publications conſiſt of a pamphlet on "The Nature and Extent of Intellectual Liberty;" "A Plan of Aſſociation, on Conſtitutional Principles," a tract written at the time of the riots in London; "Letters on Political Liberty;" occaſioned by the county meetings and aſſociations, in 1782; "Lectures on Political Principles," and "Lectures on Education;" and, a "Hiſtory of Monmouthſhire," in one volume, 4to.

Several anonymous works have been attributed to Mr. Williams, ſuch as "Royal Recollections;" but it is ſo infinitely beneath his abilities, that no one of his friends can allow it to be his. The "Leſſons to a Young Prince," and "An Apology for profeſſing the Religion of Nature in the eighteenth Century," may poſſibly have come from his pen, and they are not unworthy of it. Some of the above works, which muſt be allowed to poſſeſs a large ſhare of intrinſic

intrinſic merit, ſhew that Mr. W. had early turned his thoughts to political enquiries; and this important branch of knowledge is ſaid to have been firſt ſuggeſted to his mind, in conſequence of his aſſiſtance having been called for, in ſome parliamentary tranſactions.

His religious and political opinions at length connected him intimately with the popular party in this country, and his celebrity recommended him to the notice of the *Girondiſts* in France, who invited him over to aſſiſt him in the formation of the conſtitution. He was intimately acquainted with Briſſot * while in England; and this journey, which introduced him to the friendſhip of all the great political leaders of the day, was not unaccompanied with ſome perſonal danger: for, as he recommended mercy to the king, the Jacobins branded him with the title of royaliſt, and he was actually denounced as ſuch in their club. Mr. Williams ſaw ſo clearly the deſigns of this faction, and was ſo certain of the reſult, that he foretold to their opponents, when he parted with them, that, if they did not deſtroy the Jacobins, the Jacobins would ſoon deſtroy them †!

Soon

* Briſſot firſt became acquainted with Mr. Williams in conſequence of the writings of the latter. On his return to his native country, amidſt the turmoils of one of the moſt wonderful revolutions that ever agitated mankind, he conſulted Mr. W. as his oracle, and was forewarned by him of his danger. Had he followed his advice, the preſent ſituation of France, and, indeed, of Europe, might have been more auſpicious!

† The celebrated Madame Roland ſpeaks highly of the political talents of Mr. Williams, in many parts of her very animated work.

" Paine," ſays ſhe, " is better calculated to produce a revolution, than to " aſſiſt in the formation of a conſtitution. He ſeizes, he eſtabliſhes, thoſe " grand principles, the expoſition of which ſtrikes every one at firſt ſight, " raviſhes a club, and produces enthuſiaſm at a tavern; but for the cool " diſcuſſion of a committee, for the connected labours of the legiſlator, I " conſider

DAVID WILLIAMS

" as infinitely more proper.

" Williams,

Soon after his return, a very extraordinary inſtance of the offence he had given to a certain quarter occurred. He had been engaged by Mr. Bowyer, of Pall Mall, to write the Hiſtory of England, from the Revolution to the preſent time; this was deſigned as a continuation of Hume, and was to be ornamented with ſuperb plates. The firſt artiſts in the kingdom were employed on the occaſion, and Mr. Williams's name was announced in the proſpectus, evidently written by himſelf. But this engagement with the public was broken, after the intended author had made every neceſſary arrangement incident to ſo grand an undertaking. In ſhort, he was informed by Mr. Bowyer, that his ſervices *muſt* be diſpenſed with, in conſequence of certain intimations of the diſpleaſure of a great perſonage! Mr. Bowyer, however, found that a compromiſe was neceſſary to protect him from a ſuit in chancery.

We have now detailed ſome of the events, by which the life of this extraordinary man has been marked. What his employment may be at preſent, is not generally known, but he ſtill continues to diſtinguiſh himſelf by his laudable exertions in ſupport of a moſt uſeful inſtitution, "The Literary Fund," of which he is ſaid to be the founder; and is ſuppoſed to be occupied during the ſeſſion, by parliamentary ſtudents.

Againſt ſo bold, ſo manly, and ſo able an advocate in behalf of civil and religious liberty, much malignity has occaſionally

"Williams, although, like him, created a French citizen, was not nomi-
"nated to the convention, where he would have proved infinitely more
"uſeful. But the government invited him to Paris, where he paſſed ſome
"months, and converſed often with the principal deputies.

"A ſage thinker, a real friend to mankind, he appeared to me to com-
"bine their modes of happineſs, as well as Paine deſcribed thoſe evils tha
"conſtituted their miſery."

ſionally been diſplayed; to deprecate ſuch malignity, or defend him from the attacks of the enemies of ſuch principles, would be ſuperfluous; becauſe it would be unneceſſary. We leave the friend of Franklin, and Roland, to defend himſelf, whenever an aſſailant ſhall appear worthy of ſuch a conteſt.

GILBERT

GILBERT WAKEFIELD, B. A.

THIS gentleman boaſts a name well known in the annals of claſſical literature; and it is alſo intimately connected with the queſtions that have lately agitated the minds of the THINKING part of the community, on the ſubject of religion; nor has it been without celebrity in the field of political controverſy. Reſpecting ſuch a perſon, the opinions of his fellow citizens will be as various, perhaps, as their principles. Our judgment, too often, *Cameleon-like*, borrows its deciſions from the hue of party; and, unfortunately, we are never leſs candid, than when political and religious enmities warp around, and pervert the mind from its natural bias towards juſtice.

An outline of Mr. Wakefield's life has already been laid before the public by himſelf*, and from it we learn, "that he was introduced into this planet on February 22d, 1756, in the parſonage-houſe of St. Nicholas, in Nottingham, of which church his father was then rector." It appears that his paternal grandmother claimed her deſcent both from the Ruſſell family, the illuſtrious head of which, in the reign of the ſecond Charles, bled for the cauſe of freedom; and that great lawyer, Sir Edward Coke, the latter part of whoſe life was devoted to the liberties of his country. With ſuch progenitors, added to a ſpirit of liberal enquiry, it is but little wonder that he ſhould dare to think for himſelf, and become a ſtickler for the popular cauſe!

On

* "Memoirs of the Life of Gilbert Wakefield, B.A." 1 vol. 8vo. 1792.

On his origin, however, Mr. W. does not ſeem to plume himſelf:

" Malo pater tibi ſit Therſites, dummodò tu ſis
" Æacidæ ſimilis, Vulcaniaque arma capeſſas;
" Therſitæ ſimilem quàm te producat Achilles."

" Give me Therſites' ſon, who bravely wields
" Vulcanian armour in embattled fields,
" Before Therſites of Achilles' line;
" Degenerate offspring of a fire divine!"

From his earlieſt infancy, the ſubject of theſe memoirs appears to have evinced a diſpoſition of mind uncommonly grave and ſerious. In addition to this, he diſplayed an ardent thirſt for knowledge, ſeldom equalled, perhaps never ſurpaſſed in any human boſom; and what is truly wonderful, it has always continued unimpaired to this hour. At the age of three years and three months, when he went to the ſchool of an ancient female, ſtill in exiſtence, he could ſpell the longeſt words, repeat his catechiſm without heſitation, and read the goſpels with fluency;—for this early proficiency, he was indebted to the attention of a kind mother. During the following Whitſuntide holidays, and at Chriſtmas in the ſame year, he diſplayed a memory equally precocious.

When he had attained his ſeventh year, he was initiated in the Latin language, at the free-ſchool of Nottingham, under the Rev. Dr. Samuel Beardmore, afterwards maſter of the Charter-houſe; but to this reſpectable ſcholar and gentleman, whom he characteriſes " as an acrimonious divine," he diſavows any obligations whatever, and, after a lapſe of thirty years, he ſtill recollects his threats.

At the age of nine he was removed to Wilford, near Nottingham, then under the direction of a preceptor, of different character, a man of unparalleled ſimplicity of manners; he erred, however, in being " righteous overmuch,"

for

for he ſubjected the pupils to a rigorous confinement, of no leſs than thirteen hours daily: with the intermiſſion of only one hundred and twenty minutes, for breakfaſt and dinner. This practice is unfavourable to health, and militates againſt the ſalutary maxim of the Roman poet:

> " Et puer es; nec te quicquam, niſi ludere, oportet;
> " Lude; decent annos mollia regna tuos."

On the elder Mr. Wakefield's promotion to the vicarage of Kingſton he was removed from reſtraints too irkſome, even for a boy of his application, and placed under his father's curate. There, again, he was unfortunate, for his new preceptor proved to be one of thoſe " pedagogical Jehu's," ſatiriſed by a great Engliſh* divine; and, indeed, it is not a little remarkable, when the importance of the ſubject is conſidered, how few are qualified for the taſk of inſtruction, and how careleſs parents in general are, reſpecting the choice of thoſe who are to form the infant minds of their offspring.

At the age of thirteen, Mr. Wakefield, at length, found in the perſon of the Rev. Richard Wooddeſon, father of the preſent Vinerian profeſſor, a preceptor better ſuited to his taſte, at leaſt ſo far as diſcipline was concerned. His academy ſeemed a kind of *hot-bed* for ſeedling authors; Meſſrs. Steevens, Keate, Gibbon, Hayley, and Baron Maſeres, being all nurtured there; yet he himſelf, hardly ever publiſhed any thing, and his ſtore of latinity does not appear to have been great; but he poſſeſſed a benignant temper, and although armed with a *ferula* to the *full* as awful as the ſceptre of a deſpot, his was a gentle reign.

After taſting the ſtreams of Greek and Roman literature at their fountain head, his parents began to think of ſending him

* See the diſcourſe on " Education," (in his printed ſermons, 6 vol. 8vo.) by Dr. Robert South, public orator of the univerſity of Oxford, prebendary of Weſtminſter, &c. &c. an able man, and a great time-ſerver, but who could not get a biſhoprick!

him to the univerſity, on which a ſtudentcy in Chriſt-church, Oxford, was offered him; this he *luckily* eſcaped, in conſequence of his father's predilection for his own college; and it ſtill ſeems to afford a ſubject of exultation to the ſon, even in his riper years; as "orthodox theology, high church politics, and paſſive obedience to the powers that be, ſit enthroned," according to him, in a ſeminary, once "nutrix heroum," the venerable nurſe of Somers, Hales, Selden, Chillingworth, and Locke.

At length he obtained a ſcholarſhip in Jeſus College, Cambridge; and it ſo happened, that he exactly ſuited the intention of the founder, who preferred "the ſon of a living clergyman, born at Nottingham," both of which conditions, as may have been obſerved, happened to be united in him.

As ſoon as he was ſettled at the univerſity, Mr. W. reſumed his claſſical ſtudies, which had ſuffered a long ſuſpenſion, in conſequence of a putrid ſore throat and fever, followed by a vacation of ſeveral months. The college lectures in algebra and logic, were, however, particularly odious to him. So enamoured was he of claſſic ground, that it was long before he could prevail upon himſelf to approach the leſs inviting regions of ſcience and philoſophy. At laſt, however, he overcame his prejudices, and actually opened Euclid, "The old Carpenter," as he was jocularly termed by a young man, who, like himſelf, had become a mathematician by compulſion.

During a five years continuance at Cambridge, he roſe by five o'clock in the morning, during both winter and ſummer; but notwithſtanding this, which implies a ſevere attention to ſtudy, he was fond of ſociety at his meals.

In the third year of his reſidence, he became a candidate for Dr. Browne's three medals, and accordingly produced a couple of odes in Greek and Latin, and alſo a pair of epigrams; the firſt and laſt exerciſes, according to his own opinion,

opinion, were unworthy of the reward, but he thought he was hardly uſed reſpecting the Horatian ode; and had not the ſon of Dr. Cooke, then provoſt of King's, been a claimant at the ſame time, it is highly probable, that he would have ſucceeded.

His academical ſtudies had hitherto refuſed leiſure for theological enquiries; a branch of learning, which his native ſerioufneſs of diſpoſition, and his ſpirit of enquiry rendered peculiarly appoſite. At laſt, during the long vacation of 1775, he began to cultivate Hebrew, without the aid of which, he deemed an acquaintance with the text of the new teſtament impoſſible.

On January 16th, 1776, he took his degree of B.A. with ſeventy-four other candidates for academical honours; and, on this occaſion, he was nominated to the ſecond poſt. Soon after this, (April 16th,) he was elected fellow; and, in the courſe of the ſame year, he printed at the univerſity-preſs, a ſmall collection of latin poems, with a few notes on Horace, by way of appendix.

In 1777, he obtained the ſecond of the four yearly prizes, preſented by the members for the univerſity. In 1778, he finiſhed an exerciſe, at inns, &c. during a journey, which he had begun at college; this he truſted to the fidelity of a croſs-country waggoner, and firſt learned his ſucceſs through the medium of a London newſpaper! He thus appears to have been *ſecond* wrangler, *ſecond* medalliſt, and the *ſecond* in the bachelor's prize for both years.

On the 22d of March, 1778, he was ordained a deacon by Dr. Hinchliffe, biſhop of Peterborough, in the chapel of Trinity college, at the age of twenty-two years and one month. It would appear, that previouſly to this period, the ſtudent had enquired into the nature and tendency of ſubſcription, having ſince regarded his acquieſcence, in this point, as the moſt diſingenuous action of his whole life;

and

and ſtigmatiſed ſome of the articles, as "unſufferably ſtupid, "beyond the ſottiſhneſs of even Hottentot divinity."

On April 14th, Mr. W. left the univerſity for the curacy of Stockport, in Cheſhire.

He did not, however, remain long here, for we find him, ſoon after, with his brother at Richmond, decidedly averſe to the renewal of ſubſcription, and embarraſſed at the idea of eccleſiaſtical functions.

It is not a little remarkable, that Mr. W. ſeems, on this occaſion, to have been nearly in the ſame dilemma, in which a member of the very ſame univerſity, and aſſuredly the greateſt genius of his age, found himſelf about a century and a half before; for Milton thus expreſſes himſelf, without any ſcruple on the occaſion, to a correſpondent who wiſhed him to take orders, "to which," ſays he, "by the intention of my parents and my friends, I was deſtined of a child, and in mine own reſolutions, till coming to ſome maturity of years, and perceiving what tyranny had invaded the church, that he who would take orders, muſt ſubſcribe ſlave, and take an oath withall, which, unleſs he took, with a conſcience that would retch, he muſt either ſtrait perjure or ſplit his faith; I thought it better to prefer a blameleſs ſilence before the office of ſpeaking bought and begun with ſervitude and forſwearing."*

Every conſcientious reſolution, more eſpecially when in evident oppoſition to ſelf-intereſt, favours of magnanimity; and ſuch was actually the caſe in both inſtances. Shut out from church preferment by principle, Mr. W. bethought himſelf of a leſs lucrative ſituation, and accordingly applied for Breewood-ſchool, in Staffordſhire, which he moſt probably would have *obtained*, had it not been, that, even in

* "Reaſon of Church Government, B. II. p. 41. edit. 1641, in 4to." See alſo the Hollis' edition of Milton's proſe works, page 6.

this inſtitution, ſubſcription was actually neceſſary, as if education were indiſſolubly connected with the eſtabliſhed faith!

Soon after this diſappointment, he accepted a curacy at Liverpool; and having here probed the creed of his forefathers to the quick, his reſolution of detaching himſelf altogether from the church, became daily ſtrengthened: notwithſtanding this, he continued to preach a little longer, and his diſcourſes ſeem to have had ſuch an effect, even in that place, that one merchant (wonderful to tell!) was actually perſuaded at the interceſſion of his wife, to ſell his ſhare in a privateer. Would to God, that he could have prevailed on the people of this ſecond Nineveh to have relinquiſhed their traffic in human blood!

On March 23d, 1779, he vacated his fellowſhip by marriage.

About the ſame time, he exchanged the curacy of St. Peter's for that of St. Paul's, where he had more leiſure for his ſtudies; from an humble attempt to eſtabliſh a day-ſchool, he was diverted by an offer of the tutorſhip of the claſſical department at Warrington academy, in Lancaſhire, whither he removed in Auguſt, 1779. In this ſeminary, where he ſeems to have lived in great cordiality with his colleagues, he commenced his theological career, as an author, by a new tranſlation of "the firſt Epiſtle of Paul to the Theſſalonians," which appeared in 1781. A few months after, he publiſhed his "Eſſay on Inſpiration," on which ſubject, he ſeems to agree with Dr. Geddes, the tranſlator of the Bible; then his treatiſe on "Baptiſm," begun and completed in nine days. Next year, his "New Tranſlation of St. Matthew," with notes, &c. made its appearance; and this was finiſhed within the compaſs of a few weeks.

In

In addition to these labours, he cultivated his acquaintance with the original Hebrew text of the old Testament, learned the Syriac and the Chaldee, acquired the Samaritan character, read the Pentateuch therein, and the Syro-Chaldaic version of it; to these were added the Æthiopic, Arabic, and Persic; lastly, he obtained a facility in the Coptic version of the New Testament, and made some improvements in the lexicon and grammar of that language. When to all this are added the daily avocations of a teacher, he must be allowed to have achieved more than Herculean labours!

On the dissolution of the Warrington academy, a removal took place in the autumn of 1783, to Bramcote, within four miles of Nottingham, where Mr. W. endeavoured, but in vain, to procure a few respectable pupils. In this rural retreat, he published the first volume of "An Enquiry into the Opinions of the Christian Writers of the three first Centuries, concerning the Person of Jesus Christ;" but notwithstanding the commendation of many excellent judges, he was not encouraged by the sale, to proceed with the continuation.

In May, 1784, we find him a second time fixed at Richmond, advertising for pupils, and renewing his applications to his friends. At Michaelmas, we again hear of him in his native town of Nottingham, and there he had three or four pupils under his care for several years, on very handsome terms; and about this time, he was elected an honorary member of the Philosophical Society of Manchester, in consequence of his "Essay on the Origin of Alphabetical Characters."

In 1786, he was seized with a pain in his left shoulder, and remained ill for two years, during which period he seems to have soothed his mind by "Remarks" on Mr. Gray's poems, and a new edition of the Georgics of Virgil, accompanied with criticisms. In the beginning of 1788, he

attacked Dr. Horſley, whom he deſignates as " not the leaſt conceited and audacious controverſialiſt of ancient or modern days;" and in the autumn of the ſame year, he let off a fly cracker againſt the church, under the title of " Four Marks of Antichriſt, or a Supplement to the Warburtonian Lecture."

The year 1789 uſhered in his " Remarks on the Internal Evidence of the Chriſtian Religion;" and alſo the firſt part of " Silva Critica;" the latter, which is from the Cambridge preſs, was publiſhed with a view to unite theological with claſſical learning, and to illuſtrate the ſcriptures by light borrowed from the philology of Greece and Rome.

On the eſtabliſhment of the new college at Hackney, Mr. W. was deemed a proper perſon to fill the office of claſſical inſtructor; and he was at length appointed to this ſtation, in July, 1790. His connexion, however, with the inſtitution, was diſſolved at the end of eleven months, having retired in June, 1791: the ſeminary did not long ſurvive the loſs.

Towards the latter end of the ſame year, appeared his " New Tranſlation of the Teament, with Notes," in three volumes, 8vo. in a few weeks after, he publiſhed his pamphlet on " Religious Worſhip;" and in March, 1792, he favoured the world with " Memoirs of his own Life."

After a pretty conſiderable interval, in 1794, appeared " The Spirit of Chriſtianity compared with the Spirit of the Times in Great Britain;" this is a politico-religious pamphlet, in which the author, with a manly freedom, enquires how far the public meaſures of the government, in the origin and continuance of the preſent war, are congenial to the precepts and the ſpirit of the goſpel. Much about the ſame time, appeared the firſt volume of a new edition of " The Works of Alexander Pope, Eſq. with Remarks and Illuſtrations." On this occaſion, notwithſtanding

ſtanding his taſte for the poets of antiquity, he allows that Pope ſometimes tranſcends even the original, particularly in he following four lines in his tranſlation of Homer, deſcribing the buckler of Achilles!

" Thus the broad ſhield complete the artiſt crown'd
" With his laſt hand, and pour'd the ocean round:
" In living ſilver ſeem'd the waves to roll,
" And beat the buckler's verge, and bound the whole."

" This is truly poetry to the life," added he:

" Thoughts that breathe, and words that burn."

The ſame year alſo beheld " An Examination of the Age of Reaſon," in which, although Mr. W. boldly and ably defended chriſtianity, yet by conceding ſuch parts of the ſyſtem as were unſupportable by ſound reaſon, and more eſpecially by conſidering *national churches* not only " as hay and ſtraw, which might be removed without any difficulty, or confuſion, from the fabric of religion," but as an " incruſtation which has enveloped, by gradual concretion, the diamond of chriſtianity," he gave offence rather than ſatisfaction to the eſtabliſhed clergy, who did not chooſe that even their faith ſhould be defended at the expence of their tythes. This was ſoon followed by " Remarks on the general Orders of the Duke of York," in which, although the author ſtill contends againſt the juſtice of the war, he is yet candid enough to allow the conduct of his Royal Highneſs, on this occaſion, to have been great and magnanimous.

In 1795, appeared a ſmall volume of " Poetical tranſlations from the Ancients," and alſo " A Reply to Thomas Paine's ſecond Part of the Age of Reaſon," in which the beſt friends of Mr. W. while they allowed his talents, lamented that he did not defend chriſtianity with more of its genuine

genuine ſpirit. The author himſelf diſſented from the diſſenters—and why could he not allow another man to diſſent from him?

Perſevering with unabated ardor in his career, in 1796, came forth his "Reply to the Letter of Edmund Burke, "Eſq. to a noble Lord;" in which he once more exhibited himſelf as a dauntleſs champion in the field of liberty, againſt a man whoſe rapturous eloquence had formerly excited his warmeſt panegyrics. He alſo publiſhed an 8vo. volume of "Obſervations on Pope," in the courſe of the ſame year.

"A Letter to Jacob Bryant, Eſq. concerning his Diſſertation on the War of Troy," at length appeared; however heterodox the author might be in matters of faith, he was a zealous oppugner of all hereſies from the received claſſico-orthodoxical opinions. Another letter, on a very different ſubject, addreſſed to Mr. Wilberforce, reſpecting his "Practical View of the prevailing religious Syſtem of profeſſed Chriſtianity, &c." was publiſhed in 1797. In this, he exhibits the flagrant falling off in point of "vital chriſtianity!" between the religioniſt and the politician, the favourer of war, and the oppoſer of the ſlave trade. In a former publication,* he had moſt forcibly characteriſed the ſame gentleman, "as a politico-theological ſatyr, with one breath cooling the burning anguiſh of the African, and with another in the ſame inſtant blaſting the ſpring from the year, by giving his vote to an abandoned miniſter, for the extirpation of half the youth of Europe by the ſword!"

Early in 1798, appeared "A Reply to ſome parts of the Biſhop of Landaff's Addreſs to the People of Great Britain." This pamphlet, which exhibits much perſonal reſpect to Dr. Watſon, has become a Pandora's box, and produced an infinite variety of evils; it has been even thought to commit the

*"A Reply to the Letter of Edmund Burke, Eſq. to a noble Lord."

the ſafety of the ſtate. Two convictions have already taken place, on the part of two bookſellers, neither of whom were the original publiſhers; and it is not a little memorable, that it appeared, on the oath of an unobjectionable witneſs, that one of theſe (a man of unimpeachable morals, and moſt reſpectable character), was ignorant of the introduction of the pamphlet in queſtion, into his ſhop, which happened to be brought thither on the ſuggeſtion of a ſervant, and was actually removed by the maſter, on hearing that it had been deemed libellous.*

It is but juſtice, however, to obſerve, that Mr. Wakefield came forward, on the proſecution of the original publiſher :† and manfully offered to immolate himſelf to the reſentment of the law officers of the crown :

" ——————— in me convertite ferrum,
" O! Rutuli! mea fraus omnis :—nihil iſte nec auſus,
" Nec potuit ———————————."

This *boon* being denied, he ſoon after addreſſed " A Letter to Sir John Scott, on the ſubject of a late trial in Guildhall." On that occaſion, either not finding a bookſeller, who would endanger his liberty, or not wiſhing to bring any perſon but himſelf into jeopardy, the pamphlet was advertiſed to be ſold at his *own houſe*. In this publication he complains, in language which has given great offence, that the attorney-general had wielded " the ſword of the law," with ſtern ſeverity; and in reply to an extra-judicial opinion from the bench, he ſets the ſaying of an Athenian lawgiver, in oppoſition to the opinion of a Britiſh judge.

Undaunted

* The writer of this memoir was preſent in court, and lamented greatly, that Mr. Erſkine did not make his chief ſtand on the grand diſtinction between the agency of a ſervant, *civiliter and criminaliter*, as the principal is implicated only in the firſt, and not in the ſecond inſtance, which includes *libels*.

‡ Mr. Cuthell.

Undaunted by the threats of profecution* uttered in open court, and before his own face, by Sir John Scott, Mr. Wakefield, ſince this epoch, has been employed in a controverſy with a Dr. Glaſſe, reſpecting the priſon in Cold Bath-fields. Certainly the ſpirit of our laws diſclaims every idea of torture, in reſpect to all perſons, and cloſe impriſonment in regard to political offenders in particular. Indeed, the latter, during the reign of Charles I. became the ſubject of enquiry and complaint, and was at length redreſſed. In other days, the rumours that have gone forth, concerning this newly-invented mode of dureſs, would long, ere this, have become a ſubject of parliamentary inveſtigation; and it is to be hoped, that even the preſent age is not ſo degenerate, if a real grievance ſhould be found to exiſt, as to permit our mild, humane, and excellent code to be perverted with impunity.

Mr. Wakefield at preſent reſides at Hackney, with his amiable family, conſiſting of a wife, formerly Miſs Watſon (niece to his quondam rector), four ſons and two daughters. In perſon, he is about the middle ſize; and there is an air of primitive ſimplicity in his countenance and ſomewhat of an *apoſtolic* caſt about his face, ariſing, perhaps, in ſome degree, from his high and poliſhed forehead, and the baldneſs of his front and temples.

In converſation he is remarkably mild and gentle, and his manners are pleaſing. His memory is ſo uncommonly tenacious, that it can retain minute facts, and even dates, after a conſiderable lapſe of time. No man is more beloved and reſpected by a very extenſive circle of acquaintance. His perſonal activity is equal to that of his mind and pen. His habits are ſtrictly domeſtic and literary. He is a pattern of abſtemiouſneſs, and ſhares in its happy reſults, never partaking

* He has ſince been ſerved with an information *ex officio*.

taking of ſtrong liquors; and from a laudable principle of humanity, totally abſtaining from the uſe of animal food.—Mr. W. muſt, even by his enemies if they know him perſonally, be pronounced to be a man whoſe conduct is ſolely actuated by principle, and an inflexible love of virtue. He may err, but his faults are not the depravity of his heart—they can only reſult from too ardent an imagination, or from the miſtakes of his judgment.

A. S.

MR.

MR. OPIE.

NEITHER the parents, nor the education, nor the fortune of this eminent artiſt, would have conferred on him any diſtinction in ſociety, and, like the Engliſh painters of the laſt century, he might have worked at ſo much by the *ſquare yard*, had not nature conferred on him a portion of genius that ſoon diſtinguiſhed him from the vulgar herd.

Seemingly doomed, by inevitable circumſtances, to work at the bottom of a ſaw-pit, or on the roof of a houſe, juſt as the avocations of a country carpenter required, he yet found means to emerge from that ſituation, and to move in a reſpectable ſphere in life. The late George Anderſon, A. M. and accountant-general to the Board of Control, contrived by chalking a few mathematical figures on the door of his brother's barn, in which he threſhed, to engage the attention of a benevolent patron, and to extricate himſelf from his mental bondage.

A ſimilar accident diſcovered the bent of John Opie's mind, and a painted board effected for him what a chalked gate had done for his acquaintance, as Dr. Wolcott, who had himſelf a taſte for drawing, and lived in the neighbourhood, happened to ſee, and was pleaſed with the labours of the ſelf-taught boy, of whom he, perhaps, exclaimed:

"NON SINE DIIS ANIMOSUS PUER!"

He accordingly took him under his protection, cultivated his talents, pointed his efforts, and taught him to aſpire to

fame

fame and fortune. The maſter, with an aptitude bordering on the romantic, had transformed himſelf from a ſurgeon to a clergyman, and he now, with almoſt unexampled goodneſs, metamorphoſed the apprentice of a carpenter into an hiſtorical painter.*

After ſome previous inſtruction, the pupil repaired to Exeter, where he began to earn a livelihood by his pencil. He then changed his place of abode, from a provincial city to the capital, and ſucceſſively removed from a little court in the neighbourhood of Leiceſter fields, firſt to Great Queen-ſtreet, and then to the politer air, and more faſhionable ſituation, of Berners-ſtreet. He had been four or five years in the metropolis, however, before he began to exhibit, as it was not until 1786, that any of his pictures appeared at Somerſet-houſe.

From that moment wealth and reputation ſeemed to attend his efforts; he firſt was nominated an academician elect, then a member of the Royal Academy, and what was infinitely more profitable, became a "faſhionable painter." For the Shakſpeare gallery he executed ſeveral pictures, and is generally allowed to excel in hiſtorical compoſitions.

His beggars, old men, old women, and aſſaſſins, are admirable. The portrait of Mrs. Wolſtoncraft, painted by him, excelled in veriſimilitude; but his characteriſtical excellence conſiſts in ſtrength; and Reynolds himſelf, although he is praiſed for having transferred the ſoul into the countenance,

* It has been improperly ſuggeſted by the writer of the account of Dr. Wolcott, while mentioning the unfortunate coolneſs that took place, ſome cenſure was due to Mr. Opie; but we learn that no ſuch thing was meant, either to be inſinuated, or aſſerted; and if it had been, that it was quite undeſerved.

nance, could never give, perhaps, ſo bold and ſpirited a likeneſs of the male head, as Opie.

This artiſt has been twice married. His firſt match was unpropitious, and did not add much to his felicity; his ſecond wife (late Miſs Alderſon, of Norwich) is a moſt accompliſhed, and no leſs beautiful woman; and we truſt that the union of painting and literature will contribute to the mutual happineſs of the parties.

LORD

LORD ROKEBY.

(With a Prefatory Diſſertation on Beards.)

THE *human beard*, at preſent deemed an unſeemly excreſcence, was conſidered by all the nations of antiquity as one of the greateſt ornaments of the perſon; and gods, as well as mortals, were ſuppoſed to be decorated with this emblem of wiſdom and virility. That of Aaron is deſcribed as flowing to his girdle, and the ambaſſadors of David, after having received the nearly indelible affront of being *ſhaved*, were adviſed to remain at a diſtance from the capital, until their beards had grown to the proper length. In many of the eaſtern countries this is ſtill conſidered as a neceſſary, and even a beautiful appendage; and while the Turks carefully cover with their turbans, the hair that grows on their heads, they preſerve, comb, perfume, and oſtentatiouſly diſplay, that which ſprings from the chin.

The northern nations ſeem alſo to have evinced a great veneration for their beards, and it is not yet much above a century ſince theſe have fallen into obloquy and diſuſe even in this country: they are, however, ſtill retained by the *ſerfs* in Ruſſia and Poland, and by the *boors* in Norway.

In our own iſland, the upper lips and chins of the northern barons in the train of the Conqueror, exhibited a ſmall portion of beard, and the Saxo-Britons, who oppoſed them, had theirs ſtill better ornamented. After the introduction of linen, which was but little known in this country before the conqueſt, beards ſeem to have diſappeared by degrees,

as if comporting only with the frowzy covering of a flannel ſhirt. We ſtill, however, find veſtiges of them even in more modern periods. That of James I. appears to have been broad and buſhy. During the civil wars, Charles I. is both painted and deſcribed as wearing a narrow-pointed beard appended to the lower part of his chin, and *muſtachios* on the upper lip; the great Algernon Sydney appears in the plate engraved by Baſire, from a drawing of Cipriani, prefixed to the Hollis' edition of his works, to have worn *muſtachios** only; but moſt of the republicans of that day ſeem to have nurſed their beards in proportion as they polled their heads.

Both the French and Auſtrians appear of late to have conſidered whiſkers as an appendage to the military dreſs, and from the inroads they have lately made in this country, on the human face, it bids fair to be ſoon nearly as much ſhaded by them as it was formerly by the beards.

Theſe preliminary remarks will not appear totally miſplaced, perhaps, to ſuch as are acquainted with the perſon of the noble lord whoſe memoirs are here offered to the public, as his beard forms one of the moſt conſpicuous *traits* of his perſon; and he is the only peer, and, perhaps, the only gentleman of either Great Britain or Ireland, who is thus diſtinguiſhed.

MATTHEW ROBINSON, Baron Rokeby, of the kingdom of Ireland, and alſo a baronet, is deſcended from a very old and reſpectable family, being a branch of the Robinſons of Struan, in Scotland, whence his anceſtors emigrated about one hundred and fifty years ſince, and ſettled in Kent; they ſoon after acquired ſome lands in the north riding

* The celebrated Sir William Temple, who flouriſhed at a later period, is painted by Sir Peter Lely with *whiſkers*.

riding of Yorkſhire, which came to them by an intermarriage with the heireſs of Robert Walters, of Cundall, in the latter end of the laſt century.

Sir Septimus Robinſon, Knt. father of the preſent peer, was gentleman-uſher to George II. He gave his ſon, Matthew, a moſt excellent education; but it was, perhaps, never ſuſpected by the old courtier that he would become one of the moſt ſturdy patriots of his age, a "Whig," according to the real meaning of the word, and as ſuch, an aſſertor of the true principles of Engliſh liberty, which called in William III. and placed the preſent illuſtrious family on the throne. After a good foundation of claſſical learning, he ſent him to Cambridge, where he remained for ſeveral years; and he appears to have made conſiderable progreſs in his ſtudies; for he procured a fellowſhip there, which he retains to this day.

In 1754, he ſucceeded, on the death of his father, to his eſtate in Eaſt Kent, and appears to have lived at his manſion there, with all the eaſy affluence, hoſpitality, and ſplendor, that characteriſed the Engliſh gentry of that day, when a land-tax at about two ſhillings in the pound, and a trifling malt-tax, conſtituted their only burdens. During the winter, part of his time was ſpent in the capital, and in the ſummer ſeaſon, he was accuſtomed to paſs away a month or two at Sandgate caſtle, where he enjoyed a charming proſpect of the coaſt of France; while ſea-bathing, to which he was much addicted, was to be had there in great perfection.

In conſequence of his vicinity to Canterbury, and a family connexion with that place,* he had many opportunities of cultivating an intimacy with the principal inhabitants.

Being

* This, until of late, was carefully kept up; his brother, Charles, who had been originally bred to the ſea, but afterwards became a lawyer, having been ſucceſſively Recorder, and one of the members for that city.

Being a man of engaging manners, ſhrewd ſenſe, and independent fortune, they determined to nominate him their repreſentative on the firſt vacancy. He was accordingly brought into parliament by them, and he faithfully diſcharged all the important duties annexed to that ſituation for a long ſeries of years.

We find Mr. Robinſon, during the whole of the American war, one of the moſt ſtrenuous oppugners of a meaſure pregnant with gigantic miſchief, and which by the enormous encreaſe of our national debt, generated oppreſſive taxes, and became the parent of incalculable misfortunes to ourſelves and our poſterity. Not content with oppoſing Lord North with his voice in the ſenate, he entered the liſts againſt him with his pen, and publiſhed a pamphlet pregnant with ſound ſenſe, manly argument, and liberal ſentiment. In fine, it was then looked upon as one of the moſt able productions of that day; and it ſtruck the author of this narrative, who borrowed it ſome years ſince from one of his relatives, as a kind of *political prophecy*, of the calamities which actually aroſe out of a ſyſtem of taxation without repreſentation, and coercion without power.

He lived long enough to ſee all his predictions verified. Our legions either withered away in a diſtant country, or, if victorious, they only retained in ſubjection ſuch portions of territory as were covered with ſoldiery, or immediately adjoined the ſpot on which they encamped;—all elſe was hoſtile. Conqueſt itſelf became precarious, and defeat was inevitably attended with the endleſs variety of evils incident to diſaſter in an enemy's country. At length Burgoyne was captured at Saratoga; France declared herſelf in favour of the inſurgent colonies; Holland and Spain became our enemies; Cornwallis, who has ſince fought under better auſpices in India and Ireland, laid down his arms to Rochambeau and Waſhington; and a bleeding and exhauſted empire

was

was obliged to accede to the humiliating, but neceſſary, preliminary of American independence.

The eſcape of all the authors of that diſaſtrous conflict from puniſhment, and the ſpeedy reſtoration of one * of them to power, diſguſted many good men of that day; and it required, indeed, but little foreſight to preſage the many evils with which *impunity* was connected. Mr. Robinſon appears to have entertained theſe, or ſimilar ſentiments, and to have retired from the ſcene with a degree of virtuous indignation highly appropriate and becoming.

What contributed to this, perhaps, was his bodily infirmities. From his youth he had been ſubject to many ſevere fits of illneſs, and, in addition to theſe, his hearing and his ſight were conſiderably affected. In this ſtate of body and mind, he deemed it highly improper for him any longer to occupy a ſeat in parliament, as he could not either diſcharge his duties with fidelity to his conſtituents, or ſatisfaction to himſelf. Impreſſed with this ſentiment, he addreſſed a letter to the inhabitants of Canterbury, in which he took an affectionate leave of them, and is ſaid to have mentioned to one of the principal citizens (perhaps the late Alderman Barham), "that they ought to chooſe a younger, and more "vigorous man, as a ſucceſſor;—one who had eyes to ſee, "ears to hear, and lungs to oppoſe, the *tricks* of future "miniſters!"

From this period his hiſtory becomes that of a private gentleman. He reſided conſtantly at Mountmorris, and lived equally without oſtentation, and without meanneſs. He planted, improved, and embelliſhed. His houſe was open to all reſpectable ſtrangers, and he was much viſited, on account of the ſingularity of his manners, and the ſhrewdneſs of his remarks. A great friend to agriculture,

* Lord North, in conſequence of the memorable coalition!

his tenants in him experienced a moſt excellent landlord. As for himſelf, he ſeems to have baniſhed the deer from his park, as an unprofitable luxury, and to have ſupplied their place with black cattle and ſheep, of which great numbers are always to be ſeen there.

It was moſt probably about this time that Mr. Robinſon firſt permitted his beard to grow; for it muſt have taken many years to attain the *patriarchal* length which it at preſent aſſumes. He alſo addicted himſelf to many other ſeeming ſingularities; and imagining, perhaps, that ſea-bathing was good for the diſorder * he was chiefly afflicted with, he built a little hut on the beach near Hythe, about three miles from his own houſe, in order to enjoy the advantages reſulting from it. It is moſt likely, however, that he indulged to exceſs in this *medicine*, for he frequently remained in the water, until he fainted.

Finding the diſtance too great, perhaps, for him to walk,† he conſtructed a bath, ſo contrived as to be rendered tepid by means of the rays of the ſun only; it is immediately adjoining his houſe, and he has found prodigious benefit from ablutions, or rather immerſions therein.‡

On

* A diſeaſe of the inteſtines.

† He was generally accompanied in theſe excurſions by a carriage, and a favourite ſervant, who got up behind when he was tired. Mr. Robinſon, with his hat under his arm, proceeded ſlowly forward, on foot, towards Hythe, realiſing, as it were, the picture of Gray, in which he paints the venerable figure of one of the Welch poets:

—— "Looſe his beard and hoary hair,
"Stream'd like a meteor to the troubled air."

If it happened to rain, he would make his attendants get into the poſt-chaiſe, obſerving, "that they were gaudily dreſſed, and not inured to wet, therefore might ſpoil their clothes, and get ill."

‡ The writer of this ſketch, happening to be in the neighbourhood, towards the latter end of the ſummer of 1796, determined to ſee Mr. Robinſon, who had then acceded to the title of Lord Rokeby. On his way to Mountmorris,

On October 10th, 1794, he ſucceeded, by the death of his uncle, Richard Robinſon, Biſhop of Armagh, primate of Ireland, and Baron Rokeby of the ſame kingdom, to his honours as an Iriſh peer. The patent of creation was granted to that dignitary, February 26th, 1777, and by it the remainder is to veſt in the preſent lord; but, as Mr. Robinſon was either angry that his nephew, Matthew Robinſon, who ſat in the laſt parliament for Boroughbridge, in Yorkſhire,

Mountmorris, at the ſummit of the hill above Hythe, which affords a moſt delightful proſpect, he perceived a fountain of pure water over-running a baſon which had been erected for it by his lordſhip. He was informed that there were many ſuch on the ſame road, and that Lord R. was accuſtomed to beſtow a few half-crown pieces, plenty of which were always kept by him looſe in a ſide-pocket, on any *water-drinkers*, he might happen to eſpy, partaking of his favourite beverage, which he was ſure to recommend with peculiar force and perſuaſion.

On my approach to the houſe, I ſtopped during ſome time, in order to examine it. It is a good plain gentleman's ſeat; the grounds were abundantly ſtocked with black cattle, and I could perceive a horſe or two, on the ſteps of the principal entrance.

After the proper enquiries, I was carried by a ſervant to a little grove, to the right of the avenue, which being entered at a ſmall ſwing-gate, a building with a glaſs covering, dipping obliquely towards the ſouth-weſt, preſented itſelf, which at firſt ſight appeared to be a green-houſe. The man who accompanied me opened a little wicket, and, on looking in I perceived a bath, immediately under the glaſs, with a current of water, ſupplied from a pond behind. On approaching a door, two handſome ſpaniels, with long ears, and apparently of King Charles's breed, approached, and like faithful guardians denied us acceſs, until ſoothed into ſecurity by the well-known accents of the domeſtic. We then proceeded, and gently paſſing along a wooden floor, ſaw his lordſhip ſtretched on his face at the further end. He had juſt come out of the water, and was dreſſed in an old blue woollen coat, and pantaloons of the ſame colour. The upper part of his head was bald, but the hair on his chin, which could not be concealed, even by the poſture he had aſſumed, made its appearance between his arms on each ſide.

I immediately retired, and waited at a little diſtance until he awoke; when ariſing, he opened the door, darted through the thicket, accompanied by his dogs, and made directly for the houſe, while ſome workmen employed in cutting timber, and whoſe tongues only I had heard before, now made the woods reſound again with their axes.

ſhould have been ſo poorly left, after the ſplendid hopes held out to him, or really entertained objections to titles of all kinds; certain it is, that he declined the honorary appellation, and is ſaid to have declared, that he could not on any account have accepted an Engliſh peerage, meaning thereby, perhaps, that he conſidered the former as merely *titular*.

Lord Rokeby is nearly eighty years of age; the upper part of his body, by aſſuming a *curvature*, makes him appear ſhorter than he would otherwiſe be. There are certain oddities diſcoverable in his dreſs, which is always plain, and even mean; his forehead is bald, but in return for this, the under part of his face is well furniſhed with hair, which, however, gives ſomewhat of a ſqualid appearance to his whole perſon.* His food principally conſiſts of beef-tea, which is always ready for him on a ſide-board; and he is very abſtemious in reſpect to drink, water being eſteemed by him as ſuperior to all other liquids whatever. He abhors fires, and delights much in the enjoyment of the air, without any other canopy than the heavens; even in winter his windows are generally open. He was much attached to the fair ſex in his youth, and even now is a great admirer of female beauty.

In reſpect to politics, his conduct through life, and to this very hour, has been eminently conſiſtent; it is to principles, not men, that he looks up; and he ſeems to conſider a Stewart, or a Guelph, entitled to our praiſe or our hatred, not on account of their names (for theſe have no magic with him!) but the difference of their reſpective modes of government.

At the laſt general election, he croſſed the country to Lenham, and at the *Chequers* inn, at which he halted, was ſurrounded

* There is a pretty good likeneſs to be met with of Lord Rokeby in the ſtationers' ſhops at Canterbury. It conſiſts of a half-length coloured print.

ſurrounded by the country people from all the adjoining parts, who took him for a Turk! Thence he proceeded to the poll-booth, and gave his vote for his old friend Filmer Honeywood.

Many ridiculous ſtories are fabricated reſpecting his lordſhip, and among others, that he will not permit any of his tenants to ſow barley, becauſe barley may be converted into malt, and malt would pay a tax towards carrying on the war, which he conceives to be an unjuſt one, &c. &c.

The family of Lord Rokeby has long poſſeſſed a literary turn, and he himſelf may be juſtly conſidered as a man of letters. It was a relative of his who wrote the celebrated treatiſe on *gavel-kind*. His eldeſt ſiſter, Mrs. Montagu, has triumphantly defended the memory and genius of Shakſpeare, againſt the criticiſms, perhaps, of the* greateſt man of the day. His other ſiſter, Mrs. Scott, who died in 1795, wrote ſeveral novels, ſome of which have attained conſiderable reputation; his nephew, and ſucceſſor, Morris Robinſon, has a taſte for poetry; and Matthew Montague, the brother of the latter, and heir to the celebrated lady of the ſame name, is author of a pamphlet on Mr. Pitt's adminiſtration.

As for his lordſhip himſelf, he publiſhed the valuable, and now very *ſcarce* tract, alluded to before, and at an age when moſt old men think only of themſelves, he has not been inattentive to what he conſiders the deareſt intereſts of his country; having, in 1797, publiſhed an excellent pamphlet, entitled, "An Addreſs to the County of Kent, on their Petition to the King for removing from the Councils of his Majeſty his preſent Miniſters, and for adopting proper means to procure a ſpeedy and a happy Peace; together with a Poſtſcript concerning the Treaty between the Emperor of Germany

* Voltaire.

Germany and France, and concerning our Domeſtic Situation in time to come."

In ſhort, his lordſhip, *even independent of his beard*, which alone attracts the gaze of the multitude, may be conſidered as a very ſingular man.

He lives a conſiderable portion of his life in water, tempered by the rays of the ſun.

He travels on foot at a time of life when men of his rank and fortune *always* indulge in a carriage.

He is abſtemious, both in reſpect to eating and drinking, amidſt a luxurio[illegible]ge, wallowing in the exceſſes of both.

He has attained to great longevity, without having recourſe to the aid of pharmacy, and, indeed, with an utter contempt of the venders and practitioners of phyſic,* whoſe preſence he is reported to have interdicted.

He has written a ſenſible pamphlet, at an age when every other man (Cornaro, perhaps, only excepted) has relinquiſhed his pen.

By temperance, exerciſe, and perhaps, alſo, in conſequence of frequent bathing, his body is ſo braced, as to enable him to ſit in winter without a fire. He has alſo combated, during a long life, a very infirm conſtitution, and a diſeaſe generally conſidered as fatal.

And laſtly, what is, perhaps, more ſingular than all the reſt, he has been *wonderfully* conſiſtent; for he has never once, in the whole courſe of his life, been found to ſwerve from

* I have heard that when *a paroxyſm* was expected to come on, his lordſhip has told his nephew, that if he ſtaid he was welcome; but that if he called in medical aſſiſtance, out of a falſe humanity, and it ſhould accidentally happen, that he (Lord R.) was not *killed by the doctor*, he hoped he ſhould have ſufficient uſe of his hands and ſenſes left, to make a new will, and diſinherit him.

from his principles; in fine, he will carry to his grave the character of being virtuous and independent in a country becoming famous for its ſervility, venality, and corruption.

May the day that is to put an end to his exiſtence be far off, and may his mind be cheered, at the laſt awful moment, with the recollection of his benevolence and his patriotiſm!

S.

LORD

LORD NELSON.

REAR-ADMIRAL, now Lord, Nelſon, to whom his country is ſo much indebted for his brilliant ſervices, is the fourth ſon of the Rev. Mr. Nelſon, late rector of Burnham-Thorpe, in the county of Norfolk, in the parſonage-houſe of which pariſh his lordſhip was born, September 29th, 1758. His father's family came originally from Hilborough in the ſame county; where they poſſeſſed a ſmall patrimony, and the patronage of the living. His mother was Miſs Suckling, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Suckling, of Suffolk; granddaughter of the late Sir Charles Turner, of Warham, of this county, by his lady, the ſiſter of Sir Robert Walpole. Captain Suckling, his maternal uncle, was his lordſhip's early and very valuable friend in life. He was an officer in the ſea-ſervice; in which he firſt commanded the Raiſonable of ſixty-four guns; then the Triumph; and laſtly died comptroller of the navy. This gentleman married a ſiſter of the preſent Lord Walpole, and was, of courſe, much in Norfolk. He took young Nelſon, at twelve years of age, from North Walſham-ſchool, in the ſame county, and entered him as Midſhipman on board the Raiſonable. Here the nephew ſerved ſome time, with the valuable officer who now commands that ſhip off the Mauritius; and with Captain Charles Boyles, his friend, and neighbour in the country, then alſo a midſhipman: and from this ſhip they both removed with Captain Suckling into the Triumph, when he obtained the command of her.

On April the 10th, 1777, Mr. Nelſon was made a lieutenant, and ſent out by his uncle to Sir Peter Parker, in Jamaica, who then commanded upon that ſtation. He was by Sir Peter ſhortly afterwards made maſter and commander.

On

On the 11th of June, 1779, he was appointed poſt captain, and at the concluſion of the American war, returned home. Capt. Nelſon was next ſent out in the Boreas frigate, to the leeward iſland ſtation; and had under him, his Royal Highneſs the Duke of Clarence, who commanded the Pegaſus. Here the captain is ſaid to have rendered a ſignal ſervice to his Royal Highneſs, for which he afterwards honoured him with his friendſhip.

It was upon this ſtation, and we believe about this period, that his lordſhip formed a matrimonial alliance with his preſent lady, Mrs. Neſbit, of Nevis, widow of Dr. Neſbit, phyſician, and niece to the governor of the iſland: and, when the marriage ceremony was performed, the Duke of Clarence, it is ſaid, gave away the bride. And here it would be unjuſt not to mention a report, which does credit to the captain's integrity, and nice ſenſe of honour: Mr. Herbert, governor of the iſland, was extremely rich, and had an only child, a daughter, who was to have inherited her father's fortune. By marrying without his conſent, ſhe had forfeited his eſteem, and was upon the point of being diſinherited in favour of his niece; when the admiral generouſly interfered—and had the pleaſure, before his marriage, of reſtoring the daughter to her parents' affection, and the fortune to its natural channel.

While his lordſhip continued upon this ſtation, he had under him a ſmall ſquadron of frigates; and was particularly active in ſuppreſſing ſmuggling, a practice but too prevalent in thoſe ſeas. This vigilance was acceptable to all parties, except the ſmugglers, and their friends; who threatened, and would actually have involved him in expenſive litigations, had not the Admiralty interpoſed to reſcue him from their malice.

Upon quitting the ſtation, he returned to his native country, and, as there was no immediate call for his ſervices,

ſervices, retired with Mrs. Nelſon to the parſonage houſe at Burnham ; which his father gave up to him, preferring a reſidence in the neighbourhood. In this retreat, his lordſhip led a quiet, domeſtic life for ſome years ; like Gil Blas, at Llyrias, inclined to write over the door of his cottage :

" Inveni portum. Spes & Fortuna valete ;
" Sat me luſiſtis ; ludite nunc alios."

and, like him, inclined to return into the world, when more active ſcenes demanded his attendance.

By his lady, the admiral has no family ; but there is a ſon of Lady Nelſon, by her firſt marriage, (Mr. Neſbit,) who is a poſt-captain, and has ſerved under his lordſhip during the whole period of the preſent war. Beſides his wife, and her ſon, Lord Nelſon has now living of his near relations, firſt, his father, who reſides near Ipſwich ; next, his eldeſt brother, Maurice, a clerk in the navy ; two brothers, clergymen, William, Rector of Hilborough, Suckling, Rector of Burnham-Thorpe ; and two ſiſters, both married.

Upon the breaking out of the preſent war, his lordſhip was early appointed to the command of the Agamemnon, of ſixty-four guns. Of this ſhip's company, a conſiderable part was raiſed in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk ; and not a few in his own neighbourhood. The general opinion of his conduct and abilities, as an officer, was ſuch, that ſeveral gentlemen were deſirous to place their ſons under his command ; and ſome of conſiderable reſpectability ſolicited, and obtained this favour : in particular, the Rev. Mr. Bolton, his lordſhip's relation, and the Rev. Mr. Hoſte and Wetherhead, his friends, entered their ſons as midſhipmen on board the Agamemnon ; and, it muſt be owned, that if they wiſhed to give them a juſt knowledge of their profeſſion, founded on a valuable body of experience, they could not have

have ſelected a better maſter. Poor Wetherhead fell nobly at Santa Cruz, the others ſtill continue with his lordſhip, and have merited his eſteem and affection.

From the commencement of the war, to the preſent moment, the public are in poſſeſſion of the general out-lines of his lordſhip's life. During a conſiderable part of the time that he commanded the Agamemnon in the Mediterranean, ſcarcely a gazette appeared, but it contained an account of ſome ſervice performed, or of ſome enterpriſe undertaken. If a merchantman was to be cut out of harbour, a battery to be diſmounted, a town to be attacked, the commodore generally placed himſelf in the "hotteſt battle," and expoſed his perſon to the ſame danger as the meaneſt ſeaman. Such voluntary contempt of danger, although it is not always prudent in the commander, is certainly generous, and often leads to ſucceſs. Men will do more, and with greater pleaſure, when they find that nothing is required on one hand, but what is ſubmitted to on the other: and great examples will juſtify great expectations.

In a profeſſion like the ſea-ſervice, calculated to raiſe heroes, by inuring the mind to difficulty and enterpriſe, it would be unjuſt to extol one character at the expence of others; yet in the triumph of that glorious day, when lord St. Vincent, with a far inferior force, beat the Spaniſh fleet off cape St. Vincent, and captured four of their large ſhips, no inconſiderable ſhare belongs to Nelſon. The San Joſeph, and the San Nicholas, both veſſels of ſuperior force, ſtruck to him. The ſword of the Spaniſh Admiral, which he received upon quarter-deck, and which the Spaniard refuſed to deliver to any but his lordſhip, he preſented to the corporation of Norwich; as he has done lately that of the French Admiral Blanquet, to the corporation of London.

Upon

Upon the occaſion of the action off Cape St. Vincent, his lordſhip was created knight of the Bath; and, about the ſame time, Rear Admiral of the Blue.

In eſtimating Lord Nelſon's ſervices, it is not an individual atchievement we have to admire, in which, perhaps, good fortune had at leaſt as much ſhare as good conduct; but it is a ſeries of ſucceſſes, for the moſt part planned with judgment, and executed with ſpirit. "Some men," ſays Lord Bacon, "follow Fortune, others *lead* her." The admiral appears to be of the laſt deſcription. The glorious battle of the Nile, for which he has recently been rewarded with a peerage, has engaged ſo much attention, and has already been ſo minutely deſcribed, that it is unneceſſary to enlarge here on the ſubject. It will ſtand upon record, as one proof, among many, of what Britiſh ſailors, commanded by able officers, can effect in her arduous enterprizes. The celebrity of Lord Nelſon's name, has added another laurel to the honours of a county, already diſtinguiſhed for the eminent characters it has produced.* We learn from the hiſtory of Norfolk, that at the little village of Cockthorpe, not far from Burnham, three ſeamen of great celebrity were born; namely, Sir John Narborough, Sir Cloudeſley Shovel, and Sir Chriſtopher Minns.

When men have raiſed themſelves by their abilities to any unexpected elevation in the ranks of ſociety, their habits in private life become objects of curious enquiry. Though the *great* man may ſhine in the buſtle of the world, it has well been obſerved, that the *man* can only be ſeen in private.

Piety, or a juſt ſenſe of the ſuperintending providence of God—the virtue, without which all others are but as "duſt and

* While the politician regards the late battle with an eye that includes *all Europe*, the ruſtics of Burnham obſerve, that it was fought on "Burnham fair-day;" and conſider this as not the leaſt valuable circumſtance attached to the event.

and aſhes"—has conſiderable influence on Lord Nelſon's mind, as is known to his more intimate acquaintance; and as may be collected from the proëmium of his diſpatches to Earl St. Vincent, after the battle of the Nile: "My Lord, ——— "ALMIGHTY GOD has bleſſed his Majeſty's arms by a great victory," &c. Parental piety, which the Romans eſteemed ſo highly, as well as conjugal tenderneſs and affection for relations, which are the foundations of our ſocial ſyſtem, are alſo conſpicuous in his character. His attention to his father was always remarkable; the old gentleman had a practice, when the weather permitted, of walking for an hour before dinner: the admiral, however occupied, ſcarcely ever failed to accompany him in theſe walks. When, after the unſucceſsful attempt at Santa-Cruz, his lordſhip lay ill, in conſequence of the amputation of his right arm,* and it was uncertain what might be the event, it is ſaid that his principal anxiety was for his relations, rather than himſelf; and that he wrote to the Admiralty, with his left hand, recommending Mr. Neſbit to their notice, in caſe he ſhould die.

His attachment, however, to relations is not ſtronger than is his regard for ſtrangers in diſtreſs. He entertains a juſt ſenſe of the duties of benevolence:† inſtances of which might eaſily be adduced, did the limits of this memoir permit. And ſo ſtrong are his feelings of private friendſhip, that, when returned from a diſtant climate, he has been known to ſhed tears upon meeting an old friend unexpectedly. To ſome, theſe circumſtances may appear trivial, and light; but

* When Lord Nelſon received the wound that ſhattered his right-arm, he was in a boat, and held a ſword that had been given him by his uncle, Captain Suckling, which he prized highly. Upon this occaſion, he had the good fortune to ſave it from falling into the water, by catching it with his left hand. This circumſtance is ſaid to have given him peculiar pleaſure.

† The noble Admiral, laſt winter, ſent down a large collection of blankets to his native village, to be diſtributed among the poor.

but to others, no leſs diſcerning, they will appear intereſting; becauſe they diſplay feelings inſeparable from magnanimity, and afford the beſt inſight into his real character.

When we compare Lord Nelſon's preſent with his former fortune, and conſider the early period of ſucceſs and elevation in life, we may, perhaps, *inadvertently* conclude, that he has been exuberantly rewarded. When, however, on the other hand, we call to mind the loſs of an eye, and an arm, in the ſervice of his country; a wound received in the head; a poſition carried, which the French, the beſt engineers in the world, deemed impregnable; an expedition fruſtrated that alarmed all Europe;—we muſt readily retract ſuch concluſions. That he has riſen to his preſent eminence without the co-operation of powerful friends, is perfectly unneceſſary to remark. In a ſtate of ſociety, men are formed for each other, and exiſt by mutual ſupport; but whatever favours of this kind Lord Nelſon may have received, he has amply deſerved by the merit of his conduct. How different this, from thoſe caſes, in which ſome men, without any perſonal abilities, are raiſed to the firſt ranks in ſociety, by the mere *force* of *patronage*; and, like the ſtone of Siſyphus, are always likely to recoil on the heads of thoſe that raiſed them!

In reſpect to perſon, Lord Nelſon is about the middle height; thin, and ſomewhat inelegantly formed. He is a man of few words, and plain manners; but poſſeſſes great ſincerity, and a ſound underſtanding. He is evidently a man of genius; ſince no one but a maſter in the profeſſion could have diſcovered the *only* point in which the French line was vulnerable, and have availed himſelf of it ſo dexterouſly. Although the attack at Aboukir was ſucceſsful, it was not made without conſiderable hazard, ſince the Culloden, which ſhould have led into action, under the command of an able officer, actually ran aground. During the laſt war, Admiral Barrington, in the Weſt-Indies, took nearly a ſimi-

lar

lar poſition to that of Aboukir; which was conſidered as impregnable; and, in fact, when the French made their attack upon him, ſuch it proved.

In every point of view, we are warranted in concluding, that Lord Nelſon has rendered a moſt important ſervice to humanity by his late deciſive and ſplendid victory. If the hoſtile cabinets of Europe ſhould prudently avail themſelves of its impreſſion upon the enemy, and of the proud and commanding ſituation in which it has placed their forces, an honourable and glorious peace may be the happy reſult. The proſpect of a general and laſting amneſty is, indeed, the only point of view in which the deſolations of war can be, in any degree, tolerable to a feeling mind; the dreadful price of one victory, well improved, tends to prevent further effuſions of blood. An enemy grows more reaſonable as he becomes leſs powerful; and thus partial evil is productive of univerſal good. A. N. S.

LORD

LORD VISCOUNT HOOD,

ADMIRAL OF THE BLUE.

THE ſpirit of the chriſtian religion is manifeſtly averſe to war, but notwithſtanding this, certain it is, no claſs of the community has produced a greater number of naval and military officers than the clergy of Great Britain.

The ſubject of this article was born in Somerſetſhire, and his father was firſt vicar of Butleigh, in that county, and then rector of Thornecombe, in Devonſhire. His place of reſidence and education, after he had grown up, being in a maritime ſituation, gave him a taſte for a ſeafaring life; and his propenſity to that calling being irreſiſtible, he was ſtationed on the quarter deck of a man-of-war, and entered on the books as a midſhipman. Happening to ſerve under Admiral Smith, who ſat as preſident of the famous court-martial on the unfortunate Byng, he attained the rank of lieutenant, by his patronage, and diſtinguiſhed himſelf, on various occaſions, by his perſonal intrepidity: in conſequence of one act of gallantry in particular, he received a wound in the hand, but happily effected his purpoſe, which was the moſt deſperate an officer can be employed in—that of cutting out and capturing a veſſel belonging to the enemy, by means of an armed boat.

In the beginning of the memorable conteſt, denominated from the period of its duration *the ſeven years war*, he was promoted to the rank of poſt-captain, and ſoon after obtained the Veſtal, a frigate of thirty-two guns. Having left Portſmouth, on the 13th of February, 1759, under Admiral Holmes, and happening to be to windward, he deſcried the Bellona, a French veſſel of equal force, commanded

manded by Count Beauhanoir; on this, Captain Hood inſtantly made ſail *a-head*, came to cloſe quarters, and commenced and continued an action of nearly four hours duration, which ended in the capture of his antagoniſt.

On this occaſion, he certainly had the advantage over the enemy, in what is emphatically termed *a clear ſhip*, juſt out of port, while the count's had been diſtant many months from Europe, and was then on her return from Martinico, which had been attacked hy an Engliſh ſquadron, and ſoon after ſurrendered to his Majeſty's arms. This, however, was conſidered as ſo gallant an action, that the famous circumnavigator, Lord Anſon, then at the head of the admiralty, preſented the young captain to George II. who had the command of the Africa of ſixty-four guns immediately conferred upon him, as a reward for his conduct.

On the peace of Paris, Captain Hood, with a crowd of other brave ſea-officers, as well as the veſſels they had commanded, were *laid up in ordinary*. He, however, had the good fortune to be moored in a very proſperous birth; for knowing that intereſt in times of tranquillity was to the full as good as merit during hoſtilities, and induced, no doubt, alſo by the ſtill more powerful ſeductions of love and attachment, he had contrived, in 1753, to form a matrimonial alliance with Miſs Suſanna Lindzee, daughter of the Mayor of Plymouth, a gentleman who poſſeſſed great intereſt in the corporation. By this lady, he had a ſon, born in the courſe of the ſucceeding year, who is now the Honourable Captain Hood, an officer not inferior to his father in point of bravery and enterprize, and who has diſtinguiſhed himſelf very eminently in the courſe of the preſent war, by the ſeaman-like conduct he diſplayed in eſcaping from the batteries of Toulon, the port of which he had entered under the idea of its being ſtill in the poſſeſſion of the Engliſh.

When the unfortunate conteſt took place with America, the ſubject of theſe memoirs accepted a command, and it is not a little memorable, that but one* military, and no one naval officer ſeemed to think it either unconſtitutional or unjuſt. In November, 1768, we find him on the Boſton ſtation, and it is much to his honour that while General Gage, and ſome other officers, were deceiving the nation and the miniſtry, about the quiet and peaceable diſpoſition of the inhabitants in general, and anticipating the ſpeedy puniſhment of Waſhington, Adams, Hancock, &c. then denominated "rebels" but now recognized by recent treaties among "our good and faithful allies," he boldly and manfully told the truth, and deſcribed the colonies as in a ſtate of ferment and diſſatisfaction, not eaſily to be quieted.

In a ſhort time, France, governed by the uſual policy of ſtates, and deeming this a fair opportunity, by diſmembering the colonies, to leſſen the ſtrength and diminiſh the reſources of Great Britain, determined to exert herſelf in behalf of America; and ſoon after the capture of General Burgoyne, Louis XVI. entered into a commercial treaty with that power, now aſpiring to attain the independence which it had meditated and proclaimed. On this, the king of England withdrew his ambaſſador from Verſailles, and declared war.

The dominions of France being ſuppoſed moſt vulnerable in the extremities, it was determined to ſend a powerful fleet to the Weſt-Indies. Sir Samuel Hood, now an admiral,† and a baronet, went thither, and ſoon diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his intrepidity and ſkill, particularly in the Baſſe-Terre Road, February, 1782; when, with an inferior fleet, he foiled the Count de Graſſe. That officer, who began to be celebrated, in conſequence of his exploits in America,

* Lord Effingham, afterwards governor of Jamaica.

† He received his flag in 1780.

America, intended to make a deſcent on Barbadoes, the oldeſt of our ſettlements in the Weſt-Indies; but being driven to leeward by the currents, he determined to attack St. Kitts, at which place he had arrived with twenty-nine two-deckers; but the Engliſh ſquadron, conſiſting of only twenty-two large ſhips, formed a line of battle, and manœuvred in ſuch a manner as to entice the French admiral to quit the anchorage, which was inſtantly occupied by his more dexterous antagoniſt. Next morning, Sir Samuel was attacked by the whole French fleet, but he gave them ſo warm a reception, that they were ſoon obliged to ſheer off.* Notwithſtanding this ſervice, and the prediction of the Engliſh commander reſpecting the defence of the Brimſtone hill, St. Kitts ſoon after ſurrendered to General Bouille, then a moſt enterpriſing commander, and now an emigrant in this country.

In the important victory of the 12th of April, of the ſame year, which would have been ſtill more memorable in the annals of Great Britain, had it not been eclipſed by the brilliant achievements of a recent period, we find Admiral Hood acting as ſecond in command; and it is thus that Sir George Brydges Rodney, Bart. commander in chief, ſpeaks of his ſervices in his diſpatches, dated Formidable, April 14th, 1782.

"It has pleaſed God, out of his divine providence, to grant "to his majeſty's arms a moſt complete victory over the fleets of "his enemies, commanded by Count de Graſſe, who is himſelf "captured, with the Ville de Paris, and four other ſhips, beſides "one ſunk in the action.

"Both fleets have greatly ſuffered; but it is with the higheſt "ſatisfaction I can aſſure their lordſhips, that though the maſts, "ſails, rigging, and hulls of the Britiſh fleet are damaged, yet the "loſs

* "Many of the French ſhips muſt have ſuffered very conſiderably, and "the Ville de Paris was upon the heel all the next day, covering her ſhot-"holes. By information from the ſhore, the French ſhips have ſent to "St. Euſtatius upwards of 100 wounded men."

Letter from Sir S. Wood, Bart. to Mr. Stephens of the Admiralty.

" loſs of men has been ſmall, conſidering the length of the " battle, and the cloſe action they ſo long ſuſtained, and in which " both fleets looked upon the honour of their king and country " to be moſt eſſentially concerned. The great ſupply of naval " ſtores lately arrived in the Weſt-Indies, will, I flatter myſelf, " ſoon repair all the damages his majeſty's fleet has ſuſtained.

" *The gallant behaviour of the officers and men of the fleet I have* " *the honour to command, has been ſuch as muſt for ever endear them* " *to all the lovers of their king and country. The noble behaviour* " *of my ſecond in command,* SIR SAMUEL HOOD, *Bart.* who in* " *both actions moſt conſpicuouſly exerted himſelf, demands my warm-* " *eſt encomiums. My third in command, Rear Admiral Drake, who* " *with his diviſion led the battle on the 12th, deſerves the higheſt* " *praiſe,* &c.

Immediately after the engagement, Admiral Samuel Hood, to whom the French admiral had ſtruck his colours, was diſpatched by Sir George to the Mona Paſſage, in order to intercept ſuch of the enemy's ſquadron as might endeavour to eſcape in that direction. In conſequence of this, he captured two line-of-battle ſhips and two frigates, on the 9th of April, 1782, with the loſs of only ſix killed and fourteen wounded, and on the commander in chief's repairing to Port-Royal harbour, in Jamaica, with the enemy's ſhips, and ſuch of his own ſquadron as were crippled, he left his ſecond, with all the men-of-war capable of keeping the ſea, amounting to about twenty-five ſail of the line, off Cape François, in St. Domingo, with a view to watch the enemy's motions, and prevent any further hoſtile movements on their part.

The peace, that ſoon after enſued, once more interrupted the profeſſional exertions of Admiral Hood; he was now decorated,

* Sir Samuel on this occaſion led the van diviſion, conſiſting of the Royal Oak, Alfred, Montague, Yarmouth, Valiant, Barfleur, Monarch, Warrior, Belliqueux, Centaur, Magnificent, and William. He himſelf was ſtationed on board the Barfleur of 90 guns; his own captain was Knight; the other captains were Burnett, who led the whole on the ſtarboard tack, and Bayne, Bowen, Parry, Goodall, Reynolds, Wallace (Sir James,) Sutherland, Inglefield, Linzee, and Wilſon.

corated, however, with Iriſh honours, and launched by the miniſtry on the ocean of politics. Sir George Rodney having been created an Engliſh baron, a vacancy for Weſtminſter enſued, and it was fondly hoped that the tide of popularity would ſet in ſo ſtrong in that city, which is the uſual reſidence of royalty, that he would be returned without difficulty; this, however, proved fallacious, and his ſon experienced the mortification of being obliged to withdraw his father's name.*

At the diſſolution of parliament, in 1784, the conduct of the coalition miniſtry had ſo thoroughly diſguſted the nation, that his lordſhip once more ſtarted, and that too under more fortunate auſpices; for we find that during the memorable ſtruggle, in which Sir Cecil Wray and Mr. Fox were rival candidates, the name of the gallant admiral ſtood at the head of the poll.

In the preceding parliament he alſo repreſented the ſame conſtituents; but they were ſo diſappointed in reſpect to his exertions, and ſo thoroughly diſguſted with his attachment to the miniſtry, in oppoſition to their declared ſentiments, that at the laſt general election he deemed it prudent to accept of a peerage, inſtead of an elective ſeat in parliament; and adminiſtration having thus ſecured him an honourable retreat, they immediately put another of their naval adherents into nomination, who, after a celebrated conteſt, proved finally ſucceſsful.

No ſooner had a conteſt with France taken place, than the eyes of the people and the cabinet were directed towards the moſt able commanders in the naval ſervice, and fixed in particular on Lord Hood. That nobleman was accordingly placed at the head of a powerful fleet, and ſent to the Mediterranean. France, at this moment, was diſtracted by civil broils, and a grand effort was now made by the Engliſh miniſtry, in conjunction with the royaliſts of the ſouth, to

* Lord John Townſend was the ſucceſsful candidate.

to diſmember the empire, or at leaſt to deſtroy one of her grand naval arſenals. We accordingly find Admiral Lord Hood taking poſſeſſion of Toulon, and holding it for ſeveral months. It was deſtined, however, that a ſudden change of fortune ſhould reſtore the ſecond ſea-port to the republic. Accordingly that place being inveſted, General O'Hara, the governor, who had made a *ſortie*, was unfortunately wounded, and taken priſoner; and Lord Hood's diſpatch from on board the Victory, announcing this event, was blamed for being leſs delicate than the occaſion required. Soon after this the troops under General Dugommier ſtormed and took the heights, and ſuch was the reſolution of the beſieging army, and the conduct of Ricard, Freron, Barras, and Robeſpierre, jun. joined to the ſkill of young Buonaparte, then acting as an engineer, that the town ſoon ceaſed to be tenable.

In conſequence of this event, it was at length determined to evacuate the place; and as it would have been cruel to have left ſuch of the natives as had preferred the dominion of England to that of their own country, the men-of-war were crowded with the wretched inhabitants; and on board the ROBUST alone, although ſhe is but a third rate, about 2,300 of them were brought off.

On this occaſion, ten ſail of the line in the harbour, and three ſail of the line on the ſtocks, were deſtroyed, under the directions of Sir Sidney Smith, then acting as a volunteer, and three ſail of the line and four frigates were brought off*. Immediately

* Here follows a ſummary of the particulars of that celebrated event:

Burnt - - -	15
Eſcaped the flames - -	8
Brought off by Lord Hood -	3
Burnt at Leghorn (Le Scipio)	1
Sent to Breſt with refractory ſeamen	4
Total	31

N. B. The French aſſert that ſeveral men-of-war, ſuppoſed to have been burnt by the Engliſh, have ſince been equipped and ſent to ſea.

Immediately after theſe memorable exploits, Lord Hood quitted the outer bay of Toulon, and rendezvouſed with his fleet at the Hieres, where they were lucky enough to ſhelter themſelves during a very heavy gale of wind.

But it was not to the capture of this great arſenal, that the admiral confined his exploits. Early in the ſame year, he had blockaded the port of Genoa, which was loudly exclaimed againſt at that period, as an infringement of the laws of nations, and a groſs violation of the neutrality of that petty, but *then* independent, ſtate. Our fleet in the Mediterranean alſo bridled the grand Duke of Tuſcany, and forced him into compliances which, had it not been for his powerful family alliances, might have ended in the annihilation of his petty ſovereignty.

In February, his lordſhip had alſo made an unſucceſsful attack on the iſland of Corſica; from which he was obliged to deſiſt in conſequence of a violent gale of wind, which drove him to ſea; and on the 29th of the ſame month he anchored at Porto Ferraro. The next attempt on Corſica proved infinitely more fortunate; for that little ſtate, which Genoa affected to denominate a kingdom, and which conferred "a barren crown" on the head of Theodore, was annexed, for a ſhort time, to the dominions of Great Britain; but after ſwallowing up immenſe wealth, it was *happily* for the nation wreſted from us by the enemy.

After performing theſe ſervices, Lord Hood retired to his native land; and notwithſtanding he is now in the vale of years, he is equally ready, as before, to hoiſt his blue jack, and command the ſquadrons of his country.

His majeſty at all times has been ready to reward his merits. He was created a baronet when the king viſited the fleet at Portſmouth, in 1783, at which time he was port-admiral there, in the room of Admiral Pye, then lately deceaſed; in September, 1783, he became a baron of Ireland:

land; and on May 28th, 1796, a viſcount of Great Britain. His lady was created a peereſs of Great Britain, March 27th, 1795, and his brother, Alexander-Arthur, Admiral of the White, Vice-Admiral of Great Britain, a Knight of the Bath, and Baron of Great Britain, May 28th, 1796.

The heralds, in alluſion to the element on which he has diſtinguiſhed himſelf, have given him a *brace* of mermaids for ſupporters; and the motto

"VENTIS SECUNDIS,"

muſt be allowed to be peculiarly appropriate.

FINIS.